

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
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7<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

Dear Sir,

**RE: Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other  
Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission proposing amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* (the Bill).

While I am in support of the intent of the Bill and what it stands for, to protect the environment from hazardous mining operations, I cannot support the transitional arrangements for resource projects that are in the very late stages of approvals.

For projects that are in the late stages of approval or currently in land court, the further requirement to now apply for an associated water licence could delay advanced projects up to 24 months to gain a "baseline assessment". A number of these projects have already encompassed significant groundwater monitoring, testing and analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process undertaken as part of the submission for a Mineral Development Licence (MDL) and Mining Lease (ML).

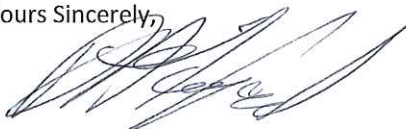
The delay of these projects will lead to advanced projects being shelved and continuity of existing mining operations put at risk. Many jobs will be "mothballed" and local community services put at risk. Personally, my job will be at risk by delays in advanced projects currently in land court which initially were thought to be resolved in several weeks but have taken 8 months and still continue. Great effort has been taken to "jump through" hoops put in place by successive governments and to take into account environmental concerns by the public, many of which have no connection to the land they are protesting about.

I would like to propose that the Bill is amended as follows:

*A person other than the applicant is not entitled to seek internal review or appeal the decision to grant the associated water licence if the project has already been referred to the Land Court pursuant to s. 185 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.*

Lack of consultation with key stakeholders prior to the Bill being released is also of concern considering the narrow review timeframe and the impact the bill will have on stakeholders. It feels it is being rushed for political purposes.

Yours Sincerely,



David Kingsford

