

Emily D'Alterio

7 October 2016

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Dear Research Director:

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide feedback on the recent legislation proposal "Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016". I would like to express my concern with this legislation with respect to:

- Myself, my family, my peers and my community
- My Company
- The Coal Mining Industry

Firstly, I would like to share the potential impacts of this Bill on me and my family. I have worked in the mining industry for a number of years. I am very proud to have been a part of a very safe industry that has demonstrated its commitment to working with the community and preventing environmental harm. The proposed Bill will have a significant impact on me and my family. It is our sole source of income and this Bill will impact us significantly from a financial perspective as well as a health and wellbeing. We have worked very hard to build our lives as well as a career and this Bill will have negative impacts on our families security and health.

I have many peers, friends and community members who will be impacted by this. Some of who are older and believe there will be limited employment opportunities for them at their age. This is placing significant stress on our industry. We have been through a long period of decline and as a health professional I have seen a significant increase in mental health issues and illnesses based on the concern of peoples security, financial strain and also relationship breakdowns or struggles. This Bill is another knife into the industry

Research Director  
7 October 2016  
Page 2

that has supported the economy of this country and state and has also been recognized for environmental awards.

Furthermore, we have a property in a mining town and have already been significantly impacted financially by the decline in mining and consequently are in a position of financial strain already. We did not buy during the peak and did not over capitalise, we bought a family home and have subsequently moved back home to Brisbane and are not able to sell this property without a significant loss and still having a mortgage. This Bill will further exacerbate this situation if mines are to close or new mining prospects are not liable to organisations. We are not an isolated case. This Bill will impact many communities and thousands of families.

I sincerely hope you consider the impacts on the families and communities impacted and how far this impact reaches.

I am currently working for New Hope Group and this Bill has significant impacts on this Australian mining company, in particular their New Acland, Queensland Bulk Handling and Brookwater Corporate Office. This makes up approximately 80% of their employees. We are reliant on the New Acland mining lease being approved for our job security. This is over 500 people who will be impacted directly. Indirectly contracting companies, suppliers, Aurizon, Queensland Rail, Port of Brisbane and local communities, this equates to thousands of people. Furthermore other mines in the region and other users of the Western Rail Corridor will be impacted with the increase in rates and potentially making operations not feasible. New Hope prides themselves in using local and Australian suppliers who would also be impacted significantly.

As part of the process to pass this new legislation, affected could projects or new mining leases that are at the end of the process and have already gone through nearly 10 years of approvals, public notification, consultation and Land Court, be exempt from the new legislation or be given amendments in the proposed legislation that means this approval process would not have to go backwards or start again.

We have worked for companies that have had pride in their operations and supported the communities they have operated in. I have worked in aboriginal communities, mining towns, agricultural towns and now in a Capital City. Across all roles, companies and sites, I have been involved in environmental

Research Director  
7 October 2016  
Page 3

management system compliance and community engagement and have seen the wonderful work and opportunities the mining companies have provided to people outside of the industry. For example the Central Highlands Science Centre, local schools in Wynnum, Men's and Women's Health support networks and the turtle protection in the Cape.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback and I sincerely hope that you realise the potential negative impacts of this proposed Bill to Queensland families, industries and communities and reconsider or remove it.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emily D'Alterio', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Emily D'Alterio



