

October 6, 2016

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Agriculture and Environmental Committee,

I am writing this submission to express my growing concerns regarding the introduction of the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 on the 13th of September 2016 and the impact which it will have on the New Acland Stage 3 Expansion Project.

Stage 3 has been through an extensive Land Court process for numerous months where it has been scrutinised for ground water implications and the impact on the community. With the thorough examination that Stage 3 Extension has already been placed under, surely consideration can be given towards companies such as New Hope who have already been through the public notification and opposition process in Land Court. I ask that the New Acland Stage 3 Extension Project be exempt from being once again delayed since the project has already begun the formal processes. It is simply not reasonable for the government to expect New Acland to jump through so many continuous legislative hoops.

We are currently experiencing a time where coal is a challenging commodity to be in and I believe the government should be doing its best to support businesses. Placing legislative requirements such as this one mentioned above would be working in direct opposition of this. Why would the government be creating more obstacles in the path of companies injecting multi millions into the Australian economy?

The New Acland Project has been a fantastic opportunity for me and has given me the ability to establish my career in the mining industry. This company continues to provide avenues for on the job training for myself and many others.

For the past couple of years, job security has been dependent upon the approval of NAC Stage 3. By implementing this legislation, the government would be potentially placing another 500 people onto this list. There is already a substantial unemployment rate growing within the mining sectors. Not only would this significantly impact on my own career development but affect many more others. I know personally I would not be able to afford the momentous financial strain this would place on my family and myself, but I also think of the others who would be even worse off than myself.

I understand the importance of protecting our environment. However, considering the scrutiny Stage 3 has already endured, surely it is reasonable to accept that the processes currently in place are equivalent in making sure the ground water and local community are safe.

I ask that the government contemplate the effect this will have on the workers of the New Acland Project and appreciate the speculation already placed on Stage 3. Hopefully the rationality can be seen in exempting them from this new legislative and not further hinder our ability to continue with everyday work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Genna McDonagh