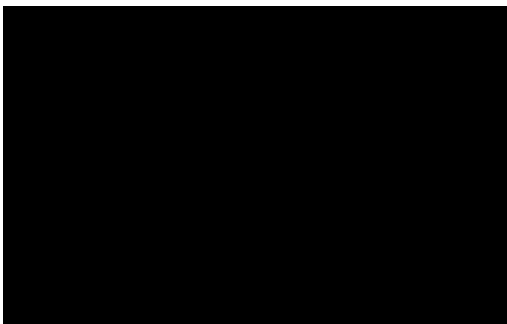


Submission from Jane Hyde

1. The groundwater provisions of the the *Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment* (WROLA) Act to be proclaimed in December 2016 will enable the holders of mining licences and leases in Queensland to take, interfere with and use groundwater as of right.
2. I wish to draw attention to the three absurdities upon which the legislation is founded:
 - I. that an indivisible 'association' with groundwater is unique to the extractive industries (in fact it applies equally to dryland grazing and cropping);
 - II. that this indivisible 'association' is sufficient to prevent the state from withholding a mining licence or lease (i.e. the power of the state to manage groundwater as it sees fit is trumped, in effect, by a right to mine);
 - III. that this right is uniquely justified in Queensland (despite the fact that an indivisible 'association' with groundwater exists in every jurisdiction in the Commonwealth where extractive industries operate).
3. I agree that the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 will mitigate the impact of these absurdities but unless the spurious 'right' to groundwater is rescinded, the future of Queensland's aquifers (not to mention the credibility of the state as a repository of intelligent legislative thinking) is imperilled.

Jane Hyde



Resume overleaf