

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

7th October 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support and share some concerns over the proposed Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Qld), introduced on 13 September 2016.

I do support the intent for this Bill, with its outcome of ensuring environmental sustainability, however I am concerned by the requirement for providing additional data for projects in the late stage of approval. This is going to have a costly impact on projects which have already undergone lengthy approval processes, and draw out this process by up to an additional 2 years.

As a consultant to New Hope Group, I have observed and been involved in the groundwater impact studies performed at New Acland mine. The groundwater debate has been discussed in Land Court for 2 weeks, a lengthy and costly process for all involved when involved.

By passing this Bill without amendment, you will be delaying the proposed mine expansion even further, in particular given that it will again be subject to public notification and objections (despite this having already been put on public notification twice through the approvals process). This is a waste of taxpayer money. I propose that this is removed from the Bill, and that any person other than the applicant is not entitled to seek internal review of appeal the decisions to grant the water licence if the project has already been referred to the Land Court.

It is of concern to me that this Bill has a very short review timeframe, and short period before coming into effect.

The delays that this Bill, as currently presented, could have on the Acland Mine expansion will have further negative impacts on employment in the local area, local economies, and on a more personal level, as a consultant to New Hope, it will directly affect my employment and family.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Joanne Kingsford

