

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the above bill to protect Queensland's Underground Water Supply for the future. Climate Change makes it difficult to predict future weather patterns. The Great Artesian Basin is a lifeline for farmers and landholders. It must be protected as it is the only reliable source of fresh water throughout much of inland Queensland.

No stakeholder should be given free and unlimited access to this vital resource especially a mining company which won't face the consequence of its actions. The inland farmers and landowners and the citizens of Queensland will be the ones to deal with the aftermath of misuse and pollution.

A licence should always be required for mining water use as it is for the other stakeholders in the region. Any submission for water use that taps into the State's water resource should have appeal rights to a judicial Court.

The Queensland Government should not allow the Newman Government's statutory right to groundwater to commence.

I support the improvements proposed in the Bill. There must be a rigorous groundwater impact assessment for any project at the environmental authority stage. Usable clean groundwater is essential for Queensland's future.

I support the requirement that those projects that are already going through the approval process also must obtain an "associated water licence" which must be assessed using the criteria of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

It's always best to err on the side of caution when risking assets so there must also be included the precautionary principal, like in all other water licences.

I strongly support the Bill that protects Queensland's, underground water supply. No stakeholder should have free and unlimited access to our (Queenslanders) underground water supply.

Yours Sincerely
Judy Stewart



