

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Friday, 7 October 2016 4:03:43 PM  
**Importance:** High

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I wish to make a submission for consideration regarding the above proposed legislation from an individual perspective, not representing my organisation.

As an employee of New Hope Group, I'm aware of the potential consequences of this legislation on our current planned expansion of the New Acland Mine. After already completing the Land Court process and providing extensive information through that process in relation to environmental and water management factors, it is astounding to me that new legislation would potentially apply to a project that is already part way through an existing approval process.

The concept of changing the goal posts part way through the process seems to apply here, and New Hope continues to jump through hoops in order to achieve the approvals for the continuation of the New Acland Mine.

New Hope Group has acted in good faith throughout the approvals process, despite significant delays and additional costs.

Employees, not only based at New Acland Mine, but in all other parts of the business are concerned about what the delays mean for them.

The uncertainty around the future of New Acland Mine has created stress and anxiety for employees and their families as they continue to question what the future holds and whether they will still have their job in the next 12 months.

Added to that is that the job market isn't exactly strong for candidates in the Oakey/Toowoomba region or Brisbane for that matter, particularly in the resources industry, so it's not as though they have strong options outside of New Hope Group.

Surely there is a more effective way to introduce new legislation in relation to transitional arrangements for existing projects part way through the approvals process? What sense does it make to duplicate information that has already been discussed in Land Court extensively?

For over 500 employees at New Hope Group, we are waiting on tenderhooks for the outcome of the Land Court process providing some certainty over the future of New Acland and as such, our individual job security.

For me personally, the proposed introduction of this new piece of legislation and what it might mean for New Hope Group has been a blow to my morale and faith in our government's ability to provide a robust and fair approvals process.

Our government should be supporting projects like New Acland that have demonstrated their contribution to the community and the environment and will continue to do so into the future. We can't afford further delays to securing the approvals for New Acland Mine.

**Kim Franks**



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