

2016-10-18

Submission No. 99
Received 04 October 2016

From Krystal Mollis

Phone:

To Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Date: 4th October 2016

Re: Submission to request amendment to Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (QLD).

Suggested Changes: a transitional arrangement and exemption for companies that are already operational.

Impacts: Companies operations cannot be sustained due to the extra economic cost imposed on them after already putting up significant time and money towards applications that have already been through land court. This will have a detrimental effect on its employees and their families.

From the prospective of a working family that is relying on the income from a company that could be effected by this new legislation.

It has recently come to our attention that the Bill passed on 13th September 2016 Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (QLD) may impact negatively on our family and many other employees across Queensland. I am writing to request a transitional arrangement for projects that are already operational, and an exemption for those who have already undergone the land court process. I ask you from the prospective of one of many employees and my family who are employed by these companies and is dependent on their work and income to live. My husband works for a company who is contracted to New Hope Acland Coal Mine, Qube Bulk Transport. As a committed employee we have made financial decisions to move closer to his work and are now potentially facing a crisis if his employment is jeopardized. We have been informed that if the Bill is not amended then the mine will have to obtain a water license and that the information that they would be required to provide could take the mine 6 to 12 month to collect. They cannot be granted a Water License until after Mining Lease is granted. This information would then be subject to a public notification period ‘**again**’ and potential objections and they could end up in land court ‘**again**’. The bottom line is that this will put even more pressure on their ability to maintain continuity of mining operations. This means that workers lose their income that themselves and their families are dependent on to pay their mortgage and put food on their tables. This has the potential to impact a large number of Australian tax payers who will then need to seek alternative work. It is my view that the people in parliament are doing their best to make decisions for the greater good, and while doing this they have a ‘duty of care’ to fully investigate the impacts that changes will have on its people. I appreciate that there are many good reasons for introducing legislation to ensure that our environment is protected and that standards are being adhered to. I believe that there is a way that these changes can be introduced so that companies like New Hope Acland Coal Mine can transition into the changes without halting their operation to the point that they cannot sustain their current mining operations. New Hope Acland Coal Mine has already been through the land court, and I fail to understand why they should be footing the cost to go through this all over again. I strongly believe that there

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needs to be provisions put in place for companies who have already gone through these applications, otherwise the parliament should hold themselves responsible for the detriment to the working families that will be impacted as a result of these companies having to stop work. The Delay in the approvals for New Hope Acland Coal mine would mean that the income that we currently rely on from my husband is insecure, and would potentially be disastrous to our finances. If our finances are insecure then this means that our wellbeing is also insecure and could result in undue stress to our growing family. We are expecting the arrival of our first child and I for one certainly do not need to go through the stress and uncertainty that this puts us in. Please consider the impacts that this decision is having and amend the Bill to accommodate a transitional agreement so that families like ours are not facing financial hardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Regards,
Krystal Mollis