



KURANDA

conservation

COMMUNITY NURSERY Inc

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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Sent via email only: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Submission to Committee on Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

We submit the following for your consideration:

- We believe it is unreasonable and inequitable that any resource company should get free, unlimited access to groundwater. It is risky to the environment and unfair to other water users. We oppose the proposal to create a 'statutory right to take groundwater' for mining companies. For no other reason than to allow monitoring of the taking of water, a licence should always be required prior to water being taken or interfered with, with public submission and appeal rights to a Court with powers of final determination.
- We support the improvements proposed in the Bill to the groundwater impact assessment for projects at the environmental authority stage. Functional, clean groundwater resources are essential to us all.
- We support the proposal that mines obtain an 'associated water licence' if they have not gone through the improved groundwater impact assessment introduced by the Bill.
- We believe the Bill needs to be amended so that the 'associated water licence' is assessed against ESD principles.
- The Queensland Parliament is currently considering new laws introduced on 13 September which change the way impacts by resource companies to our groundwater basins are to be assessed, being the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

Jax Bergersen
Secretary/Co-ordinator

Innovation in Conservation

Innovators are leaders, not followers