

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission: underground water management
Date: Friday, 7 October 2016 4:59:57 PM

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to your inquiry into the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Bill).

In Australia - the driest inhabited continent on Earth - our ground water supplies are a valuable, crucial and strategic asset to all current & future Australians.

No-one should get unlimited access to this precious community resource. Least of all short-term &/or overseas owned projects such as coal or gas extraction. The current laws bestowing these 'rights' to resource companies need to be amended immediately. The proposal to create a 'statutory right to take associated groundwater' for mining companies is very clearly not in the long-term interest of our country.

In order to manage & maintain our underground water resource, it needs a strong system of regulation, licencing, auditing & impact assessment, with the same rules applying for all industries & exceptions made for none.

The proposal to strengthen the impact assesement process for groundwater use needs to be supported.

Functional, clean groundwater resources are essential to many farmers, businesses and ecosystems. Our groundwater resources are far too important to the future of our country to risk it being compromised purely for ease of administration.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Finger.