

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
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6 October 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (UNDERGROUND WATER MANAGEMENT) & OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT  
BILL 2016**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a submission proposing amendments to the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Bill 2016.

I am in support of the intent of this Bill and a staunch advocate for strong regulatory framework to ensure sustainable environmental outcomes but I do not support the transitional arrangements for resource projects, such as New Acland Coal mine, that are in the final stages of approval.

Delays to projects in the late stages of approval caused by the application process for the "associated water licence", a "baseline bore assessment" could take up to 2 years to complete, will adversely affect 100s of jobs and impact communities relying on the sustainability of these projects.

Personally, as an employee of New Hope Group, delays to the New Acland Coal expansion approvals will have a devastating effect on my family's future and the future of the people I work with.

New Acland Coal has recently been through Land Court to support its application for an extension to the mining lease, duplicating what has already been debated during this process seems, to me, to be a waste of taxpayer's money without value adding to the process.

Consultation with key stakeholders and extended lead time, prior to this Bill being released, would provide the opportunity to develop better solutions for transitional arrangements for projects in the final stages of the approval process that will help protect both our environment and our people.

I would like to see this Bill amended to:

A person other than the applicant is not entitled to seek internal review or appeal the decision to grant the associated water license if the project has already been referred to the Land Court pursuant to s185 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Again thank you for the opportunity to have my say.

Your faithfully



Robyn Masters

