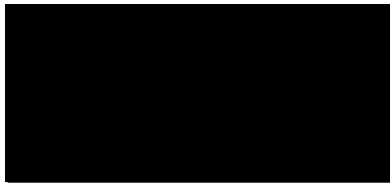


FROM

Mr Shane Stephan



07/10/2016

TO

Research Director

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Parliament House

BRISBANE QLD 4000

aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Submission on the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and
Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

Although I don't object to the overall purpose of the proposed legislation I believe that there is a need for the Bill to consider better transitional arrangements for projects in the latter stages of the approval process.

A number of resources projects that are well advanced in their assessment will be impacted by the requirement to obtain an associated water licence if the provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* are passed without amendment. One such project impacted by the Bill is New Hope Corporation's Acland Stage 3 proposal.

Proposed resources projects that have already been referred to the Land Court pursuant to s.185 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* will already have been through a process allowing objectors to raise any issues in relation to groundwater before the Land Court. In these circumstances, it is not reasonable to provide a further avenue for objectors to raise the same issues for examination by the Land Court multiple times.

For those proposed projects that have been referred to the Land Court pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the *Environmental Protection (Underground Water*

Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 should be amended so that those projects are not subject to additional third party appeal rights where those appeal rights would result in the Land Court again being asked to consider issues that have already been raised in the objections decision on the Environmental Authority.

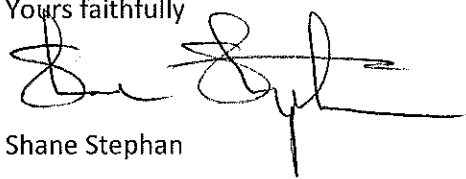
Such a process would involve unnecessary duplication of process and delay. I would expect that a project proponent should expect appropriate "grandfathering" provisions to be part of such legislation so that there is the necessary certainty for project proponents seeking to invest in Queensland and generate jobs.

Should the proposed legislation be passed without amendment there is a real possibility of additional delay in the grant of the approvals necessary for progression of the Acland Stage 3 project. Such a delay has the very real potential to lead to the loss of hundreds of jobs associated with the Acland coal mine. Jobs potentially impacted would include not just those at the mine site but also associated jobs in the provision of infrastructure services in rail and port operations as well as associated management and administrative positions.

New Hope Corporation Limited has lodged two affidavits of urgency in the current Land Court proceedings testifying to the time critical nature of the approvals process for the Acland Stage 3 project. This bill if passed unamended will negatively impact upon jobs associated with the New Acland mine without any additional objection rights being granted to objectors which have not been already heard as part of the Land Court process.

I request that the Committee recommend that amendments to the Bill be made so that appropriate transitional arrangements can be undertaken to ensure jobs are not lost.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Stephan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Stephan