

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission regarding The Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.  
**Date:** Friday, 7 October 2016 11:42:25 AM

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To the Parliamentary Committee Members -

I would like to make some comments regarding free, unlimited water being available to mines and other large water users in our state. FREE - NO! UNLIMITED - NEVER!

Yes, it was lovely to see rain fall on Queensland this year...it didn't fall everywhere but out west there were some smiles. That is 2016. As you all know, 2017 and onwards will probably be another story entirely. As a rural firefighter I travel out to those areas - fighting fires which destroy what pasture there might have been for animals. Water - always scarce but essential.

We know how fragile our underground water is - farmers balance their bores to make sure each area can be serviced. But put a huge mine - even far away - and it can drop the water table and steal the water from the farmer! And yes - the farmer must have a licence for the comparably small amount of water used.

The use of our limited groundwater is NOT a right...to be plundered by huge users like the mining industry. They must require a water licence and be monitored and regulated - and with submission and appeal rights to a judicial court.

I support the improvements proposed in the Bill to require stronger groundwater impact assessment for projects at the environmental authority stage. And that projects currently going through approval processes must also be required to obtain water licences.

And let's be careful how we allocate these licences.. not just for the quick dollar - let's have very strict ecologically sustainable development. Mines and huge water users will come and go - taking their profits with them!!!.... but we cannot repair damaged underground water systems which have taken thousands (more?) years in the making.

Please take the very best care of our underground water...and nothing for free! The generations following will remember you for doing the right thing for our country.

Respectfully  
Maxine Godley

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