

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Protection - Underground Water Management  
**Date:** Friday, 7 October 2016 3:10:04 PM

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To The Committee.

I am employed by New Hope Group but make this submission as an individual.

The Legislation - A suggested better process -

The proposed additional legislation requiring further legal intervention and creating opportunity for minority groups to increase their ability to delay and add cost to projects such as the New Acland Coal Stage 3 expansion is excessive, duplicate and unnecessary to achieve the goal.

This legislation is apparently aimed at protecting groundwater resource from harm through mining activities. The current legislation, federal, State and Local, includes reference to the issues.

Why add another law when existing Law covers the issue/s? This is duplication and is unnecessary.

These protections are already in place in other legislation. And if it is perceived the current legislation is lacking, further protections should be in the form of amendments to existing legislation. This would simplify the processes required for Private enterprise and Government to review applications and sensibly approve or not. Queensland needs jobs - Queensland needs new projects and existing business to continue profitably AND commensurate with the community majority opinion and good evidence based science.

A new Act will confer extra costs where an amendment would be more economically feasible and allow review of that entire act in relation to the concerns that have given rise to this proposed NEW Act. Therefore making the legislation encompass the intrinsic industry issues directly with the community concerns in a logical and efficient manner.

The Issues of Government/community Concern -

Are the issues reviewed in regard to good evidence based science?

Are the issues identified held by the community - World, Australia, Queensland, The region and the town? What is the driving force behind this new requirement? IS there a logical and powerful reason that warrants new legislation - with reference to evidence based good scientific review?

Can the issues raised be reviewed under current legislation and arrive at the same conclusion?

What is the cost to produce the legislation to the point of being Law?

What is the cost to the industries that will now have to present a case to ensure they are compliant when for the past centuries they have been compliant?

What is the cost to current jobs where this extra time to review this new legislation will make operating or new projects unviable?

What is the cost to private enterprise (New Hope has spent Hundreds of Millions in preparation of NAC Stage 3 over the past 10 years that has added cost to the business and reduced viability in the current very challenging times. The jobs that were "secure", is government now making

them less secure and for what end? IS there real benefit to come from the NEW Legislation that is not currently available.

New hope has provide more cooperation, information, Time, transparency and money for the NAC Stage 3 application process than any mine before.

New Acland Coal Mine has proven the commitment to Mine rehabilitation at the highest level, recently awarded for this, and is ( as my qualifications are in Farming and Business Management) evidence of farming and mining living almost symbiotically. New Acland Coal Mine rehabilitation areas have provided Evidence Based Science that is proving we have improved the soil and production and will leave behind the mining process a more productive and balanced environment than was there before.

New Legislation that requires further legal intervention in the approval process may lead the company to go elsewhere, spend the billions of dollars at their disposal where it is easier and less costly to gain approvals to continue business.

Employment and economic effects of further delay –

The NAC Stage 3 Expansion approval is vital to the thousands of jobs and millions of dollars spent annually in the Toowoomba region particularly. However There are many other jobs on the line, mine included.

I fear that if we do not gain approval for the expansion, New Acland coal will close and New Hope Group operations in QLD will reduce to exploration activity and administration/treasury activities only. This would mean the loss of a at least 50 jobs in the head office, including my position and most likely 2 of my staff(young ladies who have done nothing wrong, are contributing to the community and the economy (as home owners with mortgages). They will find work as they are exemplary young people with high values and ethics. There an be no doubt the effects on all of us will be dramatic and irreversible.

I am 55 years old and, not financially ready for retirement and even though skilled will, on evidence from the current economic analyses, have grave difficulty finding work . There are a number of our staff in the same category.

Your decision to create impediments through duplication and excessive red tape affect real people in real ways.

I ask that this legislation not progress in its current form and the committee review the process to identify the most acceptable path forward for all stakeholders and not just the loudest minority?

Regards,

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