

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

aec@parliament.qld.gov.au.

07 October, 2016

To whom it may concern

RE: Submission regarding the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Qld)

It is extremely disappointing that this bill is being considered which has little if no consideration of current 'open' approval process and also does not allow for effective transitional arrangements to take existing processes into account. I have some questions below that I would like to talk to in relation to this matter.

Why should a project that has already been through the land court process be subject to that again?

The New Hope Group has gone through several years of attempts to gain approvals to get to the current point in the approval process which has culminated in a recent Land Court process. This process was extremely thorough in its scope and the objectors allowed a lot of latitude in their submissions to the land court in putting forward their arguments against the mine expansion. There has been extensive work completed in relation to the monitoring of water and the possible effects of the mine expansion on this which was covered over a 2 week period as part of the current Land Court process. The additional approvals that would be required should the current legislation be passed would seem to be doubling up on extensive work already done, and would only delay the ability for the expansion to go ahead. In addition to delaying the expansion at New Acland, it would also show the state government to be keen to add (and not remove) to the process (red tape) in these types of matters. The failure of the bill to provide adequate allowance for current work being completed in the application process would point to a major hole in the way the bill has been designed.

Ineffective transitional arrangements for mines current in the final stages of an existing approval process

Given the extensive work already completed on multiple fronts in relation to the mine expansion, the nature of this bill, which does not have any transitional arrangements, may be seen to be simply another hurdle in place for the progression of Mining Lease applications currently in process. As with many bills passed over time transitional arrangements are generally considered in order not to greatly disadvantage people, or organisations. It seems inequitable to implement legislation that does not take into account the past history/approvals that has occurred before that point. It would appear that this is a document with extensive holes in it.

Matt Terry

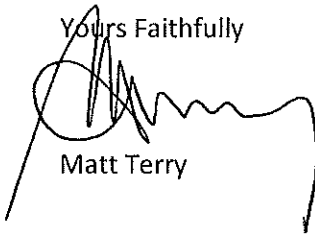


Impacts on many peoples job including mine and the impacts to my family.

Unfortunately this Bill, should it be approved, may have a bearing on a great many jobs for people within the New Hope Group. Any delay that comes about due to the bill being passed in its current form will mean a risk to the continuity of coal supply, and therefore, a risk to all employees of the group. It would be greatly disappointing to see a great many people lose their jobs (me included) from a bill introduced that does not consider the impact on current 'open' approval processes and does not take into account consideration of effective transitional arrangements for the existing approvals as mentioned above.

The clear opportunity here is for a review to be completed on the bill, and for changes to be made to take into account more aspects to this issue than what is presently overed.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matt Terry', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Matt Terry

