

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: To the Agriculture and Environment Committee Parliamentary Committee
Date: Wednesday, 5 October 2016 12:06:10 PM

To the Agriculture and Environment Committee Parliamentary Committee,

Please accept this submission on the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (EPOLA).

I am pleased to see that this Bill improves the upfront assessment of groundwater impacts of mining projects, makes some improvements to make good agreements to the benefit of landholders, and requires that mines like Acland and Carmichael must obtain groundwater licences.

However, I am concerned that the Bill does not go far enough.

I would like to see it amended to ensure that any grant of 'associated water licence' must be assessed against the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Without this amendment, it will deliver only a very weak and limited licensing process. Other amendments that should be included:

- Introducing an independent Make Good Commissioner to adjudicate disputes
- Requiring resource companies to pay for all expert assessments and all remediation costs and an additional 100% penalty associated with make good agreements
- Requiring upfront consideration of the cumulative impacts of proposed mining developments
- Setting minimum standards and applying a Code of Conduct for make good agreements

I would like to see this Bill improved and then passed through the Queensland Parliament.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

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