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From: Evol Fayers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 August 2012 5:18 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Subject: Reducing regulatory burdens for
17th august 2012

Mr Rob Hansen
Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
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Dear Mr Hansen,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the AERC's inquiry into agriculture and resource industries.

I live in a rural suburb in North Queensland. It is very isolated and contains a KRA. The area is also Heritage listed with Ramsar. The local residents are very concerned as there is currently in excess of Two hundred thousand tons of fine sand leaving these wetlands each year and there are another two applications waiting approval to bring the total removal of sand to over four hundred tons of fine sand dunes each year. The environment cannot sustain it. Residents lives are being put at risk and neither the State Government or the Townsville City Council have the ability to know who is responsible for ensuring compliance of this resource industry.

Local residents have argued long and hard that these resource industries particularly ones in isolated area's of North Queensland where they are out of sight and out of mind should not be self – regulated. In fact they must be regulated and if that can't happen because of Gov costs then the precautionary principal must be recognized and the applications refused.

I strongly recommend education and training for all levels of Government staff who are working in Planning Departments of Governments and Local Councils because there is an obvious lack of knowledge of laws and regulations with planners making decisions without the required competencies to make decisions that will impact on the Environment and humans for all time.

There needs to be consultation in good faith and transparency from Governments, Councils and agencies when dealing with these resource applications, because at this time it is just not happening and that is when things go wrong.

There needs to be more stringent regulation of tailing dams. To even think for one minute that the tailings from the Yabulu Nickel site can be tossed into the GBA is an obscenity. These issues can be resolved, and don't under estimate the ability of the public if given the opportunity to be involved in discussions and decision making.

We saw in Townsville recently a Tornado destroy many home and many lives. I have lived in Townsville for 62 years and have witnessed cyclones, floods and fires, but never have I witnessed such anger from Mother Nature.

I believe this one off disaster is a direct result of destroying and not rehabilitant the flora along the Queensland Coast and is a direct result of Climate Change,

We simply cannot afford to relax regulations on these industries, in fact they need to be up graded because if we don't climate change will beat us and there will be no beauty left for our future generations.

Thank you for your time

Evol Fayers

