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The Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Sir/Madam

Legislation concerning mining lease notification and the effect mining has on our environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission on the issue of mining lease notifications. I especially want to address the relevance this pressure of mining has on our wildlife due to ever increasing loss of habitat. I am a 78 year old pensioner who was born, educated and mostly lived in Queensland. I have been a Queensland taxpayer all my working life except for the times I offered volunteer work in a Monastery then as a Lay Missionary on Bougainville (less than 10 years). The main role in my working life was book-keeping and administration, though I explored other fields as well.

I am appalled at our Government's intent to withdraw mining lease notification to landholders and Queensland residents. The only stakeholder in this multi-dimensional concern who appears to benefit from the proposed changes is the mining industry itself. Please note that the current mining lease notification and objection process is the only safeguard for both the mining industry and the community that gives the mining industry our social acceptance.

The loss of acknowledged rights for landholders around the targeted areas, local communities and other stakeholders who would be adversely affected would cause social ferment and united anger. This would be detrimental to both the mining industry (currently dealing with world anger and concern causing withdrawal of funding for increasing numbers of its projects), plus the present Government whose mandate for gaining power was to protect our Common Wealth – not to sell it off for an appeasingly low price. The resulting desertification of sterile, toxic wasteland and waterways would only attract tourists who would come to marvel at how foolish a State, who had enjoyed such a rich biodiversity, could be. Should this current Government overturn due process that protects the rights of all stakeholders, it will be at its peril, and in the end it will also jeopardise the mining industry that the 'reduction in red tape' is supposed to protect.

It is intolerable in the extreme for the Government to propose that the only real stakeholders with a right to comment on mining lease proposals are those landholders directly affected and the local government authority. The recent mine fire at Morwell is still strong in our memory. Then we saw how a whole community was directly affected when something went wrong. What about other users of waterways and groundwater? This driest Continent on Earth relies on our sub-artesian water and rivers which cross state boundaries. What about the issues of CSG mining

contaminating ground water? What about road and rail users and residents along transport corridors, who find they are facing vastly increased road/rail traffic, some of which may be uncovered and result in dispersal of coal dust and other dust particles? What about the potential impact on noise levels and air quality, which in turn may have flow on effects on people's health. What about the impact of increased port infrastructure on communities and our coastal, marine and estuarine ecosystems? Recreational and commercial fishers comprise a substantial part of the population are in danger of their industry and recreation being compromised yet with no ability to comment? What about the tourism industry watching the spreading degradation of the local environment as toxins from the stabilized seabed are sloshed around in the massive dredging out to create mega seaports to ship the miner's product?

The mining industry is able to make private profit from what should be a natural resource available to benefit the whole population. The least it can do to maintain its social licence is to respect the views of the community, to ensure that their legitimate concerns are addressed.

There is no case at all to defer consideration of possible compensation payments until after the mining has commenced. If anything, it is likely to result in requests for increased compensation payments when affected landholders realise how seriously the mining activity compromises their land, businesses and quality of life.

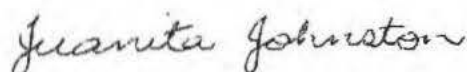
Rather than introducing measures that reduces the ability of the community to understand the industries that drive our economy, the State Government should adopt a policy position that empowers the citizenry to make informed decisions about industries that impact on them and the environment in which we live.

All of this disruption to our people and destruction of our environment is so that we can pay a criminal debt to a corrupt banking system. As J. K. Gilbraith, UK Economist says "The process by which banks create money (that puts nations into debt) is so simple that the mind is repelled" or even Sir Mervyn King, Former Governor of the Bank of England who says "Of all the many ways of organizing banking, the worst is the one we have today." The wealthy bankers who organize this corrupt state of affairs are delighted with the downhill trail that the mining industry is taking Australia and the State of Queensland into.

I request that you do not make the changes proposed, but instead keep the existing provisions that allow any person or incorporated group to consider all proposed mining leases and environmental authorities.

I know that at my age and state of health, I won't see the outcome of the tragic road to full scale mining that is being planned ahead. I do all I can in the hope that coming generations will inherit a beautiful, healthy and sustainable environment that I was born to.

Again, I am grateful for this opportunity to comment; may it continue under the rulership of this present Government.



Juanita Johnston