

From: [Gail Hamilton](#)
To: [Premier; Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Cc: [Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; Townsville Electorate Office](#)
Subject: Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014
Date: Wednesday, 2 July 2014 11:01:11 AM

Dear Premier and Minister, and ARE Committee
I am concerned about the proposed changes to community rights included in the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014*.

Even small mines may last for decades and have serious impacts on our finances, ecology, environment and society. Public objection rights are powerful rights to prevent social and environmental impact. Public objection rights to proposed mines are essential to enable the costs and benefits to be debated openly in Court and to deter the type of corruption seen in NSW.

Very few, if any, community objections to proposed mines have been vexatious, most highlight significant concerns and can be a valuable aid to assessing officers.

It is inappropriate to restrict matters that the Land Court can consider and give these powers, such as to consider the 'public interest', to the Minister. Decreasing judicial oversight, increasing ministerial powers and shutting out community participation has **worrying implications for corruption**.

I request that you do not accept these changes but instead keep existing provisions that require public notification of all proposed mining projects and that allow any person or incorporated group to object to all mining leases and environmental authorities on all the existing grounds.

Regards

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Sent from my iPhone