

From: [Denice Campbell](#)
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Mining and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014
Date: Monday, 7 July 2014 9:18:00 AM

Dear Relatives and Friends,
Please act quickly and send a copy of this email to the above email address.
Read the letter and realise what is at stake. Then, Just cut and paste the main part and delete the last couple of paragraphs of mine and add your message at the end. Email to your friends etc.
Your basic democratic rights are at risk here. Don't let a few well positioned people take them away!

7 July, 2014

My Family and Friends and everyone I speak to Organisation



The Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
By email to: AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014

[#Insert short para about you or your group and why you are writing this submission and if you want to address the committee in person. If you're writing on behalf of a group, please be explicit how you are authorised by the group to make the submission, e.g. If as secretary or president you are authorised to write submissions for the group.]

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee.

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 go to court, unlike mere consultation. 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 exposed in New South Wales. I say do not change those existing rights under Queensland law.

So I **oppose the changes** proposed in the following clauses.

Clauses 418 and 420

These clauses **remove existing community notification rights and rights to object to mining lease applications.** Changing land tenure to allow for mining rather than another land use could impact on a broad section of the public. Therefore the narrow definition of an 'affected person' proposed, which would exclude neighbours or community groups or people in the water catchment, is absurd. Land use decision making processes for other industries provide for community submission and appeal rights, so there is no good reason why mining tenure should be exempt from this basic standard.

Clause 245

Limiting community notification and formal objection rights to the Land Court to "site specific" environmental authorities will, in conjunction with the

above clauses, **remove all existing public rights to lodge formal objections to the Land Court in up to 90% of mining projects** in Queensland. This is unacceptable and fails to recognise the positive impact of community objection rights. The same mining companies who want to limit public objections are often foreign owned. Suggestions by State government Ministers that objectors lodge frivolous or vexatious cases is entirely untrue, rather the opposite is true: there are no examples of such cases and objectors are very responsible. In the Alpha coal case (2014) the land holders and conservation group exposed that the mining company had a lack of hard data on groundwater impacts. Public spirited objectors went to Court and saved Ellison Reef (1967) from limestone mining and helped show the importance of protecting Fraser Island, now World Heritage Listed (1971).

Clause 423 and 424

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**.

Clause 429

Removal of restricted land status when the miner is granted exclusive surface rights to access land removes one of the few rights of vulnerable landholders. No-one should have the land surrounding their house destroyed by an open-cut mine yet this would be possible under this clause.

I call on the Committee to approach the proposed legislation with a view to empower, rather than disempower, our communities to take responsibility for our State. In Queensland for decades any person or group has been entitled to object to any mining proposal in open court, to have the evidence scrutinised about the benefits and detriments of a proposed mine. 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.

Consultation Process prior to the Bill reaching Parliament

Please ask Minister Cripps to provide exact figures on how many of the 176 submitters to the discussion paper opposed changes to existing objection rights and detailed examples of alleged cases of vexatious objections. According to EDO Qld, at least 106 submissions of a total of 176 submissions on the discussion paper, from both rural and urban submitters, opposed the changes. Yet Minister Cripps does not report this key fact in p47-48 of the explanatory notes.

I would also like to add my disgust at the fact that a government can take away the rights of the general community, where ever they live, to object to something, just because one isn't directly affected. Sometimes people who should be objecting don't have the resources, educational levels, time or inclination to know that the proposal may severely affect them and others in the future. This action will remove the ability of the Australian community as a whole to keep a watch over possibly corrupt actions that people, politicians, / lobbyist, multinational corporations, can do for, what I believe is simply their own financial interest without any concern for other people's rights or the environment.

I appeal to the sense of justice this government must have and do not change the law.

I can assure you, I do not vote green, I am very middle class and whoever I speak to about this agree with me.

Do this at your political peril.

Yours sincerely,
Ian and Denice Campbell

[REDACTED]

Barcaldine.

(And every relative, friend and person I speak to that I know)