

From: [Jude Garlick](#)
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Mineral & Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014
Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2014 3:45:19 PM

Dear members of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

I believe the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014 will severely compromise the rights of landholders and the community as a whole. The removal of public notifications and rights to object to the Land Court of Queensland concerning most proposals for mine development (all those apart from an estimated 10 per cent of 'high risk' projects) amounts to a serious curtailment of democracy.

For many Australians, the right of communities to object to what they perceive to be risky projects provides a safeguard and an opportunity for the range of considerations can be extended to those people 'on the ground'. The definition of 'high risk' to a bureaucrat in the state capital or an interested party (mining company) in another state or country even, may be neither unbiased or fully cognisant of local issues.

With regard in particular to my last point, I am especially concerned about the restriction that permits 'affected persons' only to object to the decision to grant a mining lease tenure. I would be grateful if you could explain to me how it could be considered reasonable or legitimate that landholders in the Galilee Basin, for example, who may not be adjoining the property on which mining is to occur nor be required to provide access for development, yet share a common groundwater supply, which will be affected by drawdown from the mine*, are not classed as 'affected persons' and given the right to object to potential risk to their livelihood.

(* in the absence of substantial independent modelling of the cumulative affects of nine large mines in the Galilee as well as certain 'gaps' in the hydrogeological knowledge of the region, this is potentially a contentious issue.)

I sincerely hope that, in an attempt to 'speed up' project approvals and reduce the 'regulatory burden' for mining companies, you do not approve legislation that rides roughshod over farmers and other landholders who would for the most part have no recourse to the law. I look forward to receiving an explanation to allay my concerns.

With kind regards

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