

From: [Ada Medak](#)
To: [Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee](#); [Callide Electorate Office](#)
Subject: Submissions to the Minerals and Energy Bill 2014
Date: Tuesday, 8 July 2014 6:07:31 PM

To Minister J. Seeney
Re. Introduction of changes to mining laws, that if passed will reduce the rights of landholders to object to new mining leases on their land.

Mr Seeney, I object to the changes on the ground that those will significantly reduce the rights of land holders to hold on to their land, lifestyle & environment in exchange for hugely increasing the ability of mining lease holders to takeover the land while removing the public right to object.

Especially I object to:

Clauses 234 and 242. 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. as well as:

I object to Clauses 419 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.
And:

I object to 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.
And just as much:

I object to 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.

As a member of the Gympie WASP (Water, Air, Soil Protection) group, I strongly object to all those changes, and would like to see them removed, so that we can keep protecting our homes, land and environment in Queensland for generations to come.

Regards Ada Medak [REDACTED]

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