

By email to: [AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of Citizens Against Mining Ben Lomond to the Committee.

The impact of uranium mines is acknowledged to last for tens of thousands of years and may have serious impacts on public health, ecology and the environment. Particularly a development, already declared a threat to public health by the governments own experts, in the upper reaches of Queensland's largest river. The Burdekin, which services a huge area including the public water supplies of Townsville, a major city, Charters Towers, only some 40 km downstream from where the Creek at the minesite enters the Burdekin, Ayr and Home Hill serviced by the Burdekin Dam and the huge area irrigated from this dam and finally the ocean which contains the Great Barrier Reef. The removal of Public objection rights over consultation is a severe blow to our democratic rights.

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.

• **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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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 group to object to all mining leases and environmental authorities on all the existing grounds.

Yours sincerely,

David Sewell

Spokesperson for Citizens Against mining Ben Lomond

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