

Rob McCreath

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane  
4000

Sent by email to [arec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:arec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

8 August 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012**

I would like to express my objection to the ridiculously short time allowed for public comment on this Bill. I suggest most people would share my difficulty in digesting the complicated legal issues it addresses at the best of times, but to do so at such short notice is almost impossible, and this submission is brief as a result.

I understand that this Bill replaces the Resource Legislation (Balance, Certainty and Efficiency) Bill 2011, however there is at least one glaring omission. This Bill does not include Urban Restricted Areas where some types of mining could not occur. Having worked hard with many others on the Darling Downs to persuade the previous Government to introduce legislation to protect residential areas from the impacts of mining, I am alarmed that this provision has been deleted.

I acknowledge that the Government has commenced the process of Statutory Regional Planning, which I hope will give proper protection to residential areas, but this will take some time to complete. I would therefore request that the existing Urban Restricted Areas be included in this Bill, to provide protection until Statutory Regional Planning is finalised.

My other concern is the streamlining reform to

- *reduce assessment times by transferring the power to grant and renew Mineral Resources Act 1989 mining lease and Petroleum Act 1923 petroleum lease applications from the Governor-in-Council to the Minister.*

I am concerned that this reform could increase the risk of corruption, and ask that it be rejected. We should look at the experience of New South Wales, where yesterday the State Government announced a royal-commission style inquiry into the awarding by two former NSW Mines Ministers of four mining leases worth billions of dollars in the Hunter Valley (see links to 2 reports from the Sydney Morning Herald below).

Thank you for reading this submission.

Yours sincerely

Rob McCreath

References -

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/mining-interests-shocked-as-licences-inquiry-unveiled-20120807-23sd8.html>

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/black-loans-burnt-boats-and-fast-cars-20120807-23sgr.html#ixzz22tQ6P2Yk>