



LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE LTD

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Mr Ian Rickuss, MP
Chair,
AERC
By email to arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

8th August 2012.

Dear sir,

Lock the Gate Alliance (LTGA) wishes to make brief comments regarding the Mines legislation (Streamlining) Amendments Bill 2012.

LTGA is concerned that no community groups, environmental groups or catchment groups are mentioned in the Explanatory Memorandum, (p12) as being consulted over the Streamlining reforms. The issues relevant to this Bill are of intense interest to LTGA members and to many members of the broader community.

Further, the timeline for submissions on this Bill is so short as to be almost impossible for landholders who spend most of their day outside; and for an organisation such as this to adequately consult with its members. Accordingly, our comments are restricted to very few issues raised by the Bill.

We understand that the AERC has called for submissions on regulation of the Agricultural and Resources Sector, and that submissions close on 17 August 2012. In our opinion, it is a very poor process for this Bill to streamline assessment processes to be considered before submissions to the former process have closed, let alone been appropriately considered.

LTGA notes that the now lapsed Resource Legislation (Balance, Certainty and Efficiency) Bill 2011, on which this new Bill is largely based, included Urban Restricted Areas where some types of mining could not occur. LTGA is concerned that the new Bill has omitted these restrictions.

LTGA understands that a gazette notice issued on 16/8/12 dealt with this issue and that changes to legislation were to provide a more permanent solution by stopping grants and applications for mining tenures in the SE Qld regional area and within 2km of those areas. Outside SE Qld, it was to stop applications for some mining tenures in town areas with populations over 1000 people and within 2km of those areas.

However, the gazette notice and the proposed urban restricted areas was only to apply to

mining for some minerals, not to other mining and resource extraction such as coal seam gas. It did not apply to renewals or upgrades of tenures; nor did it protect towns with populations less than 1000 people outside SEQ region.

Irrespective of where they live, people are seriously affected by lights, dust and noise often for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. We understand that 4km is a realistic, minimum buffer area for impacts of these types. Certainty is required in this Bill that there will be no resources exploration or production tenures in an urban centre or locality or within a minimum of 4km of the boundary of any urban centre or locality.

LTGA therefore recommends that the Urban Restricted Area provisions be reinstated.

LTGA does not support the intent of S290 which proposes to give new powers to the Minister to grant and renew mining and petroleum leases. For purposes of transparency, accountability, and community confidence, we strongly support this power remaining with the Governor in Council.

LTGA recommends clause 290 be deleted.

About Lock The Gate Alliance

LTGA represents more than 150 community groups and thousands of individual supporters concerned about the impacts of mining and unconventional gas developments on Australia's land, water and other environmental resources, cultural heritage values and the health of residents in nearby communities.

LTGA's mission is to protect Australia's natural, environmental, cultural and agricultural resources from inappropriate mining; and to educate and empower all Australians to demand sustainable solutions to food and energy production.

The Alliance is committed in all its activities to the following **principles**:

1. That robust scientific assessment, the precautionary principle and the principle of intergenerational equity should guide decision-making.
2. That communities should have the ultimate say, within the context of Principle 1.
3. That it will support all and any communities who support the objectives of the Alliance.

Through its organisation and campaigning against inappropriate mining, the Alliance has five central **aims**:

1. To protect Australia's water systems.
2. To protect Australia's agricultural land for food and fibre production.

3. To protect Australia's bushlands, wetlands and wildlife.
4. To protect the health of all Australians.
5. To protect Australia's aboriginal and cultural heritage.

In working to achieve these aims the Alliance has two central **policy objectives**:

To ensure the governments of Australia :

1. Introduce a moratorium on unconventional gas exploration and mining until the community is satisfied through a sufficiently robust and independent assessment that these industries will not have a detrimental impact on Australia's water systems, agricultural land, community health, natural environment Aboriginal and cultural heritage; and
2. Allow only responsible and sustainable mining which provides for the protection of where we live, the health and resilience of the community and the preservation of where we grow food and fibre, the natural environment, and Aboriginal and cultural heritage.

Yours sincerely,



Drew Hutton
President.