

Carolyn Heffernan

From: Ellie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2012 4:41 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission to the Agricultural, Resources and Environment Committee
8 August, 2012

Submission to the Agricultural, Resources and Environment Committee

Mines Legislation (Streamlining Amendment) Bill 2012 (“Bill”)

Chair Mr Ian Rickuss, MP for Lockyer

Dear Mr Rickuss,

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the *Mines Legislation (Streamlining Amendment) Bill 2012*. My comments on the bill are outlined in dot points below:

• Any streamlining of the process for mining companies should not reduce the time for public scrutiny of projects in fact the current period for public comment is very short when one considers the detailed information that must be perused and responded to. I have heard from a number of landholders that the learning curve they have to go through to understand and respond to EIS for projects on or affecting their properties is way too sharp. More support is needed for regional conservation groups and the Environmental Defenders Office to support landholders and communities to understand their rights;

• The online platform proposed for streamlining mining proposals should pay for by the industry and should the accessible by the public so everyone can track the status of mining projects;

• The legislation should include restrictions on mining near residences including a 5km buffer around urban areas, small towns and

dwellings. It is unacceptable that people should have to live within 5km of a mine where blasting and 24hr works are taking place;

• Provision should be made in the legislation so that QLD complies with UN requirements that Nature Refuges be protected from mining. In order to protect the flora and fauna within the nature refuges a buffer zone of 5km around a Nature Refuge should also be put in place.

I look forward to your response regarding these matters and to see them adequately reflected in the legislation.

Kind Regards,

Eleanor Smith