

Friends of the Earth Brisbane  
20 Burke St  
Woolloongabba QLD 4103

Attn: the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
By email: [arec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:arec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Rickuss and the ARE Committee

**Re: Submission to the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposed changes to mining and petroleum legislation.

Given the short time frame which was available to comment, we are unable to provide you with a detailed submission but we trust you will take into consideration the following points.

**1. Inclusion of Urban Restricted Area**

Friends of the Earth Brisbane is disappointed to see that Urban Restricted Areas have been removed from this bill and recommend that they are reinstated with a 5km mining exclusion zone around towns with populations over 100 people. The previous iterations of this amendment bill provided protection for regional towns and communities across Queensland and went towards mitigating the detrimental social impacts that mining has had on regional Queensland. It is a significant step backwards to exclude this provision from the current bill and communities such as Wandoan, Taroom and Gowrie Junction will have an uncertain future as a result.

**2. Information on the online portal should be made publicly available**

In order to meet its stated objective of transparency in the assessment process,<sup>1</sup> the online service delivery platform should be made publicly available. Authenticated customer access does not meet this stated objective as it provides no input for those who are not 'customers' to access information on the status of mining projects. The current online sources of information are often out of date and inaccurate. Public participation in decision making relies on access to reliable information. There is no compelling reason to limit access to such information.

**3. The costs should be borne by the mining industry**

All costs associated with the 'streamlining' of the application and approval process should be borne by the mining industry not the Government. These costs substantively benefit the industry in enabling a faster approval of their project and the Government should not be subsidising the mining industry by bearing the cost of the online system.

Furthermore, we are disappointed that these substantive changes to the mining laws in Queensland have been created exclusively with industry engagement, overlooking the social, environmental and local concerns that other stakeholders might have with the proposed changes. Providing a one week comment period for all other stakeholders at the end of a three year process is inadequate.

Kind regards,



Shani Tager  
On behalf of Friends of the Earth Brisbane

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<sup>1</sup> Explanatory Memorandum, page 2.