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From: libby.connors@qld.greens.org.au
Sent: Wednesday, 8 August 2012 5:10 PM
To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee
Cc: communications@qld.greens.org.au; mandyd@ihug.com.au
Subject: submission to AREC on Mines Legislation(Streamlining) Amendments Bill 2012
Importance: High

Mr Ian Rickuss, MP

Chair,
AERC

Email to arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

8th August 2012.

Dear sir,

The Queensland Greens wishes to make brief comments regarding the Mines legislation (Streamlining)Amendments Bill 2012.

We are 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 Greens 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 working through daylight hours, and for an organisation such as ours to adequately consult with members. Accordingly, these comments are restricted to only a 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.

We note 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. The Greens are concerned that the new Bill has omitted these restrictions.

It is our understanding 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.

The Greens therefore recommends that the Urban Restricted Area provisions be reinstated.

We do 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 support this power remaining with the Governor in Council.

The Queensland Greens recommends clause 290 be deleted.

Your sincerely

Dr Libby Connors

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