

ARCTURUS DOWNS LTD.

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The Research Director
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

2nd November 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Proposed Strategic Cropping Land Policy

Arcturus Downs is located in the Central Highlands within the Springsure Creek Coal Project (EPC891). This is a highly productive property encompassing both dry land and irrigated farming as well as grazing. We are centrally located within the area identified as the Central Protection Zone for Strategic Cropping Land. The inclusion of Clause 282 and 283 within the Strategic Cropping Land Bill as introduced to Parliament last week is both unbelievable and extremely disappointing. These inclusions are a complete contradiction of what the policy is about and erode what was left of the original intent of the document. **The Springsure Creek Coal Project (EPC 891) should not be excluded from the Strategic Cropping Land legislation and Clauses 282 and 283 should be deleted from the Bill.**

This is a decision by government that will have a direct impact on our business and our lifestyle. And this decision has been made without so much as a single visit from any one of the Natural Resource Ministers over the last eighteen months, despite numerous invitations. For reasons unknown, the State Government have taken a liking to Bandanna Energy and are obviously keen to see their projects progress at the expense of prime agricultural land which has been producing food and fibre for generations.

And while publicly Bandanna Energy would have you believe that they are community oriented and have actively engaged with the local community this is definitely not the case for the landholders. Bandanna Energy have had no direct communication with us since July 2010 (we did receive one email in April 2011). On one occasion a representative from Bandanna rang our accountant in an attempt to find an alternative person to talk with, knowing full well they are required to talk with current management. They do not have and have not made any attempt to negotiate an access agreement hence they have done no exploration on Arcturus Downs since 2009. We have un-rehabilitated exploration holes from 2009 on the property despite complaints being made to the Department of Mines and Energy. Yet the plans for the Springsure Creek

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underground coal mine clearly cover a large portion of the property with the mine going directly underneath our station complex.

There is no justification for the special transitional arrangements given to Bandanna Energy:

- This is not a project of state or public significance
- This is not a project in an advanced stage of development
- This project did not have a final terms of reference on 31st May 2011
- This project does not have a certificate of application for a Mineral Development Licence under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)*
 - Despite public statements to the contrary this always was an underground project - there was no show of commitment to the SCL Policy by Bandanna Energy through a change of plans from open cut to underground.

The Queensland State Government (and Bandanna Energy for that matter) make grand statements about their commitment to the Strategic Cropping Land Policy. The legislation in its current form certainly does not reflect that commitment. The special transitional arrangements given to Bandanna Energy must be rescinded and the Springsure Creek project must fall within the SCL legislation. Add to this, that clause 282 and 283 are clearly benefiting one company – this is simply not acceptable within any legislation.

Regards,

Lizzie Bradford.

Lizzie Bradford