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9 March 2018

Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
egc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee

Inquiry into the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018 (the Bill)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide very brief comment on this Bill.

Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) is the peak conservation organisation in Queensland, with some 60 member groups across the state, each with their own significant membership bases. We are approaching our 50th anniversary of advocating for stronger conservation policy, law and practices, and have played a lead role in many critical campaigns to secure protection for Queensland's nature. QCC also works directly with other state and national conservation groups, and a number of regional conservation bodies in Queensland which focus more intensely on local and regional environmental issues within their particular geographic scope

QCC broadly supports the efforts being taken by the Queensland Government to make much needed improvements to the management of the risks posed by financial failure in the mining sector. For too long Queenslanders have had to tolerate the approval of final landforms that have resulted in serious on-going environmental risks particularly impacts on surface and groundwater resources, or tax payers have ended up paying to clean up after mines have been abandoned.

While QCC supports a more rigorous approach to this issue, we hold serious concern that the Bill fails to move us sufficiently beyond the status quo.

We would urge the Committee to consider the submissions from Lock the Gate and the Environmental Defenders Organisation Qld Inc. in regard to appreciating a detailed critique of the current model, and what is being proposed in the Bill.

We would also encourage the Committee to seek a far stronger and more rigorous approach to dealing with the landscape and groundwater impacts of mining. We anticipate that such proposals will be included in submissions from QCC member groups and other conservation organisations including WWF-Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Seelig', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Tim Seelig
Coordinator
Queensland Conservation Council

[Redacted contact information]