

7 June 2017

Dr Jacqui Dewar
Committee Secretary
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017* (the Bill).

The GasFields Commissioners were appointed in December 2016 and received a briefing on the recommendations from the Independent Review of the Commission and the Government's response. The Commissioners acknowledged that, once the legislation is amended, there will be a new operating framework and Commissioners will not be involved in day-to-day operations and community engagement. The Board will set the strategic direction and staff will implement this strategy.

The Chair and the General Manager have received wide support from key stakeholders on the new direction outlined in the review recommendations which are now reflected in the Bill. The changes are largely administrative in nature to:

- Remove the function for the Commission to resolve individual disputes and include a function to facilitate and support Queensland Health to address community concerns;
- Provide the Minister with the discretion to make the role of the Chair part-time;
- Enable the Commissioners to function as a board in line with other government bodies;
- Replace the requirement for Commissioners to represent particular stakeholder interests with a requirement to possess appropriate experience and qualifications;
- Delineate the roles and responsibilities of the Chair and CEO; and
- Redesignate the General Manager role as CEO.

The Commission is currently embedding the resources and capabilities necessary to establish an effective stakeholder relations capability so that the Commission is visible and accessible in the gasfields and emerging areas.

This organisational change contained within the Bill enables the Commission to effectively manage the engagement activities that were previously performed by seven Commissioners.

The Commission has commenced the transition process to establish the new operating environment and has published its 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan, reflecting the strategic role of the Commission board in setting the direction for Commission staff.



If you require further information in relation to this submission, or would like the Commission to appear before the Committee, please contact the Commission's General Manager, Carolyn Collins

Yours sincerely

Ruth Wade
Chair