

14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Committee Secretary  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

## **Inquiry into Mine Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2017**

Dear Secretary,

I am writing this submission from your request calling for submissions on this Bill. I personally have gained over 40 years of experience working in the mining sector and during this time I have spent a considerable amount of it researching mine safety as a team member. I have been concerned with the changes made in the legislation on safety management and I have this request to submit in regards to workplace health and safety that cannot be ignored. "Just because an event of danger has not occurred does not mean that it won't occur." The methods used to safeguard the workplace and worker must be such that the best methods of health and safety must be applied that can ensure the best outcome but the research into improving these methods is continuous. Time changes human nature and working methods and the limits of safety will change.

With this in mind and understanding the recent report submitted into the inquiry into mine safety, the listed features given are not for me to criticize individually. These features of mine safety are better understood from the inspectorate who work in these areas and are accustomed to the difficulty encountered.

From a collective view, it is paramount that the inspectors are regarded with appropriate seniority and power to ensure that the mine site is working to a recommended procedure and if unsafe the site can be shut down without argument. All matters drawn to the attention of the inspectors that are significant should be brought to the attention of a regular group sitting. This collective group should be in the company of well qualified and independent committee that can evaluate the discussion and recommend the work to be done to alleviate the safety problems from reoccurring. This committee could be selected from university and professional executives in this field of knowledge with the ability to assess the methods of using the reported information and processing a course of action.

Applicable international knowledge and abilities should also be acknowledged and referred to where possible to ensure the best outcomes in mine safety.

All workplace safety incidents usually involve more than one weakness. The Moura No 4 disaster of 1985 had the mining inspector who was involved with this at the time "John Brady" gave a lengthy detailed account of the conditions he observed and how many mistakes were played out where many more lives could have been lost.

Mine Safety is the most demanding of all in workplace safety requirements and from this structure it could be possible to pass recommendations into other workplace environments that could benefit from this information.

In all recommendations made it is imperative that those employed in the industry experiencing issues of safety, are given a chance to discuss these matters in group sittings and to share their knowledge.

I hope this matter is resolved in an intellectual way that will prosper the lives of those working in such a difficult and dangerous situation.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Smalley