

18 January 2016

Ms Erin Pasley  
Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Email to: [ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Ms Pasley

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Government's Bills:

- *Planning Bill 2015*; and the
- *Planning and Environment Court Bill 2015*.

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) is the peak representative organisation of the Queensland minerals and energy sector. QRC's membership encompasses exploration, production, and processing companies, energy production and associated service companies. QRC does not represent the small mining or gemstone sectors. The QRC works on behalf of members to ensure Queensland's resources are developed profitably and competitively, in a socially and environmentally sustainable way.

QRC understands the above two new Bills are proposed to replace the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (SPA). QRC understands the Bills do not fundamentally change the development assessment or its relevance to other planning instruments, such as the State Planning Policies. QRC supports the policy intent to deliver a more accountable and integrated development assessment process and to provide more user-friendly legislative instruments to implement the policy objectives (by moving much of the previous SPA into regulations and guidelines). QRC considers that the legislative drafting is reflective of the intent to create a more open and transparent development assessment process that embodies a strategic approach to planning and development.

For the most part resource related activities are governed under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* and the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, however planning legislation does have an important role to play with resource activities' ancillary services such as workers accommodation/work camps and some related infrastructure.

QRC supports the Bills' intentions to codify standard assessments and move towards a more risk based approach, similar to that exercised under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Further, QRC supports the categorisation of assessments into three areas (accepted, assessable and prohibited development) that QRC expects will provide for a clearer process that can be easily understood across all stakeholder groups.

The Private Member's Bills introduced are highly similar to those introduced by the Government. QRC supports the intent of both Bills, however particularly supports the inclusion of a minimum public notification period and extension of timeframes for State planning instruments in the Government's proposed legislation, as this provides certainty to all stakeholders.

QRC has been involved in previous consultations in the development of these Bills and appreciates the opportunity to again provide feedback through the Committee. The QRC contact on this work is QRC's Resources Policy Manager, Ms Katie-Anne Mulder, who can be contacted on 3316 2519 or alternatively via email at [Katie-annem@qrc.org.au](mailto:Katie-annem@qrc.org.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Roche  
**Chief Executive**