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To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
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Subject: Submission re Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill 2016
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Importance: High

To the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee of the Queensland Parliament

Comments re the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill 2016

Cloncurry Shire Council appreciates the Queensland State Government showing commitment to ensuring communities affected by mining projects have some level of input and gain tangible benefits.

The following comments and issues need to be addressed to make sure the Bill does in fact deliver its objective, which is **“the object of this Act is to ensure that residents of communities in the vicinity of large resource projects benefit from the operation of the project”**

- Great importance needs to be placed on the SIA process. Local Government must be the major stakeholder in this process. The process must be compulsory and must be enforceable, with penalties that ensure it is better to follow the SIA requirements rather than ignore them.
- Prescriptive parts of the Bill are less important if the SIA is strong enough, and each project has tailored requirements, not a ‘one size fits all’
- Current draft allows the opportunity for 1 person to be employed locally and requirements are met – this is not the spirit of the Bill and needs to be rectified
- Bill to be retrospective and rolled out to all FIFO mines to ensure no competitive advantage from one site to the next. If this is done under the SIA framework, common sense outcomes can be delivered for the benefit of mining company and community
- Bill to cover construction as well as operation, and SIA will differentiate the differing requirements of each phase
- Local government to be involved in the risk assessment phase relating to travel – daily commute versus staying in on site camps
- Proponents need to engage with enough lead time to ensure local Government has time to provide the infrastructure required for an increased population
- SIA process to include the social responsibility of the proponent – like transport (Aurizon v Pacific National), local business opportunities

The aim to deliver population growth to nearby communities is one the key indicators of the success of the Bill. If employment opportunities are not created that encourages, and succeeds in having people move to towns like Cloncurry, the Bill has not delivered.

Regards

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