

## Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 December 2015 4:53 PM  
**To:** Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

17<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Queensland Parliament,

Brisbane, Queensland

[ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir

Please accept this as a submission to the Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (WLA).

We are very concerned that Part 4 of WROLA will greatly harm agricultural water users as well as the environment because it will:

1. Remove the requirement for miners to obtain a water licence for the vast quantities of groundwater that they generally extract during mining operations
2. Reduce the ability of the Qld Government to act transparently to prevent unsustainable levels of water extraction by miners during operations
3. Remove the right for adjoining landholders whose water resources will be affected or lost due to the mining operations to challenge the grant of a licence
4. Remove the role of the Land Court as final independent arbiter who can rule on appeals against water licences granted to coal miners

Failure to revoke Part 4 of WROLA represents a very substantial breach of the promises which the Qld Government made in the lead up to the election, when it promised to *'repeal the Newman Government water laws which will....allow for over allocation of Queensland's precious water resources'*.

Failure to revoke Part 4 of WROLA breaches promises that were made by the Qld ALP to restore community objection rights against mining, because it removes the right of adjoining landholders to object to the provision of water licences to miners.

**The WLA should not be passed unless it is suitably amended to revoke Part 4 of WROLA, and thus to prevent the granting of statutory water rights to the mining industry.**

**The principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development should be extended to apply to the resources sector under Chapter 3 of the Water Act.**

Yours sincerely,

Robert J Bell & Dawn E Forrer