

18th December 2015

Garry Reed

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee of the Qld Parliament

ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Re: **Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (WLA)**

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

The *imbalance in power* between the community and landholders and the resource extraction industry is great and is resulting in very poor and costly mistakes in the assessment and decision making processes.

The *conflict of interest* for government from the powerful resource industries and the politically expedient corruption of priorities is resulting in short term jobs and royalties trumping long term costs and ecological sustainability.

The loss of incalculable atmospheric, land, water and biodiversity values for short term benefit when there are almost infinitely more sustainable alternatives is indicative of fundamental governance failure.

I submit the following **Recommendations:**

- 1. I request that the WLA is not 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.**
- 2. I generally support other provisions of the WLA, although we believe that the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development should be extended to apply to the resources sector under Chapter 3 of the Water Act.**
- 3. I request that the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), including the Precautionary Principle, be applied to all environmental legislation.**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this amendment bill.

Yours Sincerely, Garry Reed