


LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE

AUSTRALIANS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR LAND, WATER, AND FUTURE 

Ellie Smith
Queensland Projects Coordinator
On behalf of Lock the Gate Alliance

By email: 

Committee Secretary, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Sent by Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

26/11/2018

Re: Inquiry into the Human Rights Bill 2018.

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I write to strongly support the introduction of a Human Rights Act in Queensland and to encourage you to make a recommendation to the Government to ensure basic human rights to clean air, water and an overall healthy environment are upheld in the act as well as the right to free prior and informed consent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples for developments affecting their land and communities.

I am deeply concerned about the treatment off communities affected by developments such as unconventional gas mining in Queensland and believe that an Act that truly protects human rights, including the right to life, liberty and security of person (UDHR Article 3) would protect communities from these kinds of developments being forced upon them.

I draw your attention to the proceedings and preliminary statement issued by the Permanent People's Tribunal session on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change which outlines the failure of government to protect communities from human right's infringements of oil and gas companies under taking unconventional gas development in Queensland; and the UN special rapporteur John Knox's report on the Framework Principles of Human Rights and the Environment, and **recommend the Queensland Human Rights Bill be amended to specifically include the right to a safe, clean and healthy environment.**

The right to free prior and informed consent is enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and should be codified in Queensland law, reflecting the highest standard possible for the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes about large projects affecting their land and communities.

While the implementation of a Human Rights commissioner with broad powers to investigate complaints is welcome, the need for a legal mechanism to ensure violations are remedied should also be considered.

Regards



Ellie Smith,
On behalf of the Lock the Gate Alliance