

Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No:	6
Submitted by:	Dr Ray Parkin OAM
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Mining Warden's Court

Pursuant to Section 74 of the Coal Mining Act 1925, an Inquiry into the nature and cause of the accident is undertaken before the Mining Warden and four persons having practical knowledge and skills in the mining industry who were not connected with the mine, where the accident occurred.

The Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 will re-establish and increase the powers of the Mining Wardens Court to investigate fatal accidents on the state's mine and quarry sites which is a very positive move towards improving safety investigation.

It is good news that the Mining and Resources Coroner will have broad powers of investigation and will be able to compel a witness to give evidence, including self-incriminating evidence. The compelled evidence cannot be used against the person in a criminal or civil proceedings and will not impact a potential prosecution given that an inquest will only be held after any prosecution has been finalised.

One of the very significant strengths of the Mining Warden's Court was that four persons having practical knowledge and skills in the mining industry who were not connected with the mine where the accident occurred were appointed to assist the Warden.

If the Amendment Bill 2025 included the addition of the four persons to assist the Coroner it would be a major step forward for accident investigation in the Queensland Mining and Quarry industry.