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25 January 2013

Secretary
State Development, Infrastructure & Industry
Parliamentary Committee
Parliament House
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BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Sir/Madam

GASFIELD COMMISSION BILL 2012

Council at its meeting on 22 January 2013 resolved to make the following submission regarding the Gasfield Commission Bill 2012:

a) Much of the present work undertaken by the Gasfield Commission has been in the Surat Basin, but its work has potential significance for Central Queensland, including the Rockhampton Region, which contains a number of potential coal seam methane sites in the Styk Basin and elsewhere. In the future Central Queensland is likely to become a hot spot for the coal seam gas industry with the Galilee Basin joining the Bowen Basin as areas of great activity.

The Commission contains commissioners who represent landholders, communities in which the onshore gas industry operates and the onshore gas industry.

Council suggests at least one commissioner should come from Central Queensland with possibly another coming from North Queensland. This will ensure the Commission does not become only focussed on the issues of southern Queensland.

b) One of the Commission's functions is to undertake research relating to the onshore gas industry. At present this function can only be undertaken in partnership with other organisations. The Commission should have the right to carry out research itself as well as in partnership with other entities.

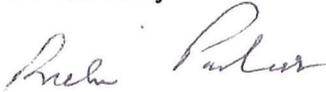
c) Government entities which develop policy or legislation intended to affect the onshore gas industry must consult with the Commission about the proposed policy or legislation. Companies about to undertake major projects should have the same obligation.

d) The Commission is able to demand information from prescribed entities. One ground on which entities do not need to comply with such a notice is when the giving of it may “tend to” incriminate the giver. This power is wide and should be restricted to material which actually incriminates the giver rather than “tending to incriminate” them.

e) A prescribed entity includes a landholder, onshore gas operator and a company engaged under a written agreement to carry out work on behalf of an onshore gas operator that relates to the exploration or production of petroleum. This provision should also apply to sub-sub-contractors etc as well as sub-contractors.

f) A gasfield community leaders council is proposed to be established to identify issues affecting the co-existence of landholders, regional communities and the Queensland onshore gas industry. This council will include people who represent local governments, regional communities and the onshore gas industry. It could also include representatives of landholders and regional interests, such as Central and North Queensland.

Yours faithfully



Rick Palmer
Strategic Manager Economic Development

JNP