



Working together for a **shared future**

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Dr Kathy Munro  
Research Director  
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
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Dear Dr Munro

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee ('the Committee') on the inquiry into the future and continued relevance of Government land tenure across Queensland. Even though the Committee's scope of the inquiry is rather wide, the Queensland Resources Council ('the QRC') has limited its comments to matters that are of direct relevance to resource tenure.

The QRC is the peak representative organisation of the Queensland minerals and energy sector. QRC's membership encompasses exploration, production, and processing companies, energy production and associated service companies. The QRC works on behalf of members to ensure Queensland's resources are developed profitably and competitively, in a socially and environmentally sustainable way.

Queensland is richly endowed in coal, mineral and gas resources and these known resources are distributed across distinct geological basins. Each year, scientific investigations, modelling and new exploration activity adds to the stock of knowledge about Queensland's resource endowment and helps to guide the investment decisions of hundreds of exploration companies.

The exploration for, and production of, minerals and energy in Queensland requires both resource tenure under various resource legislation and an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Resource tenure provides temporary rights to fossick, prospect, explore, develop and extract a resource. This temporary property right vested in tenure is an essential precondition for the certainty required for capital intensive investment required for production. However, resource tenure is not exclusive and frequently different types of resource tenure overlap and coexist.

Given Queensland's high prospectivity, there is bound to be resource activity in areas that also have other important land uses, such as pastoral grazing, agriculture, urban development, conservation, cultural heritage and so on. With some exceptions, many resource activities can co-exist with, and even compliment, other land uses. QRC would be happy to provide the Committee with examples of successful co-existence.

Resource tenure is essentially blind to the underlying tenure, in that it overlaps but does not extinguish pre-existing rights of leasehold or freehold occupants unlike other tenures. Resource tenure holders also have obligations to reach agreement with landholders on standards of conduct and compensation amounts for diminished use of the land. As a resource tenure is considered a future act, it is also bound under the *Native Title Act 1993* to reach agreement with any Native Title holders.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission. The QRC contact on this matter is QRC's Resources Policy Adviser, Katie-Anne Mulder, who can be contacted [REDACTED] or alternatively via email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barger

**Director, Resources Policy**