

## SUBMISSION

### Invitation to make a submission into the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Janet Appleton

*On behalf of*

Victor and Janet Appleton

[REDACTED]

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit possible amendments to proposed changes to the  
Bill 2014

I have read the proposed amendments as per Part 6 Amendment of Mineral Resources Act 1989 and would request with respect that some additional amendments be considered. These amendments relate specifically to Mining Leases and Mining Claims. While clauses relating to these two sections may appear to be adequate **I would like to bring to the attention of your committee what actually happens “on the ground”.**

To explain I will include a brief outline of how we are affected as land holders, costs incurred by the Government & Environmental effects.

I refer in particular to the following land:

**“Miclere” via Clermont Central Queensland**

**Lot 24/CP90115 GHPL/2560**

Parish: Miclere

County: Dickson

Shire: Isaac Regional Council

We, Victor and Janet Appleton, purchased “Miclere”, an area of 3740 hectares in 1996. We run “Miclere” as a cattle grazing property in conjunction with adjoining properties “Blackridge” and “Pernois” which combine cropping and grazing.

Historically, “Miclere” was a gold mining area, as most areas were, when originally settled in 1871. (Ref Page 327 DW de Havelland Gold & Ghosts Volume 3)

By 1996 when we purchased the land, gold mining was almost non-existent with only a very few lease holders living on site.

Pegging and approval of Mining Leases has increased dramatically since then, so much so, that to date approximately 51 leases covering an area of 1695.7399 hectares and 4 claims with an area of 3.3663 hectares exist with 4 more permits to peg, issued.

Map is included to show extent of impact.

**The system seems to be failing because:**

Leases are being granted for large areas for terms of 20 years

Applicants are either age pensioners or living on Government benefits even disability benefits with little or no intention to mine – there appears to be a loophole where it is not necessary to provide evidence of their viability or capability to be miners.

This is providing a relatively “inexpensive place to live”, not a viable livelihood.

If a person receiving a disability pension with his wife receiving a carer benefit, can be granted a total area of 57.97 hectares (2 leases + 2 claims) with a further lease of 23.344 hectares since sold on – the present system is failing and regulations should be tightened by way of amendments to the Mineral Resources Act.

The supervision and monitoring of these leases is creating a huge impost in both time and finances on the Government Departments – Departments of Natural Resources & Mines and Environmental & Heritage Protection. Both of these Departments have tried to increase their monitoring & directives, since we raised the matter at a recent Cabinet Meeting held in Emerald. They are continually frustrated & limited by time restraints and lack of personnel.

If amendments were instigated whereby applicants are required to provide evidence of their financial funding and expertise, as well as commitment to becoming a viable operator I'm sure many of these applicants would not satisfy these conditions, and therefore the need to provide monitoring by Government Departments would be reduced and as a result costs incurred would also reduce.

Therefore the number of "fake" miners using the property as a place of residence only, would also be curtailed, if not eliminated.

Unfortunately, any amendment will be too late to rectify the problems we are facing, but their inclusion will surely reduce the blatant abuse of the current system.

### **Environmental Impact:**

Clauses to cover the following should be included or improved in the Act and Officers of the relevant Departments given the power to enforce & issue directives to rectify problems.

Rehabilitation of mined areas is rarely attended to as specified in Plans of Operation – again they read well but what actually happens "on the ground" is far different.

Funds held as security bonds for rehabilitation should be increased to a realistic figure. In most cases the funds held would not even cover the cost of hiring a machine to perform the earthwork required.

Spread of noxious weeds is not controlled – this should be the responsibility of the lessee and enforceable.

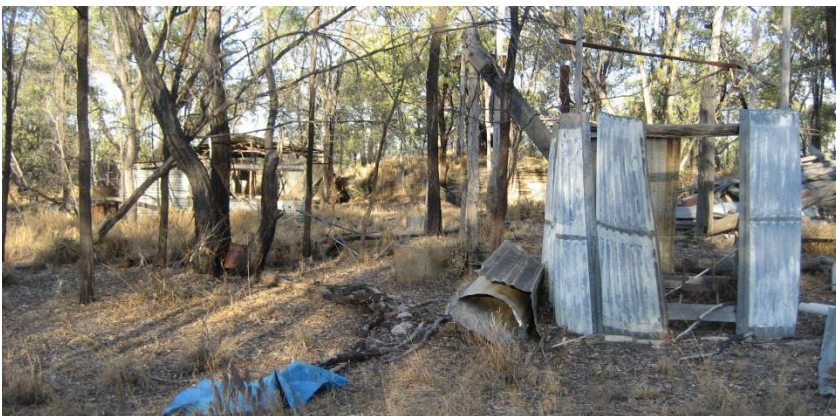
Leases which have lapsed often have no funds available to clean up & rehabilitate – this in turn becomes a further cost to the Government

While these recommendations, if enforced, would greatly improve our situation and the viability of our grazing operation, I suggest there would be many more property owners currently affected by mining, who would also benefit. Incurred monetary costs to the Government would be reduced and effects environmentally be greatly improved.

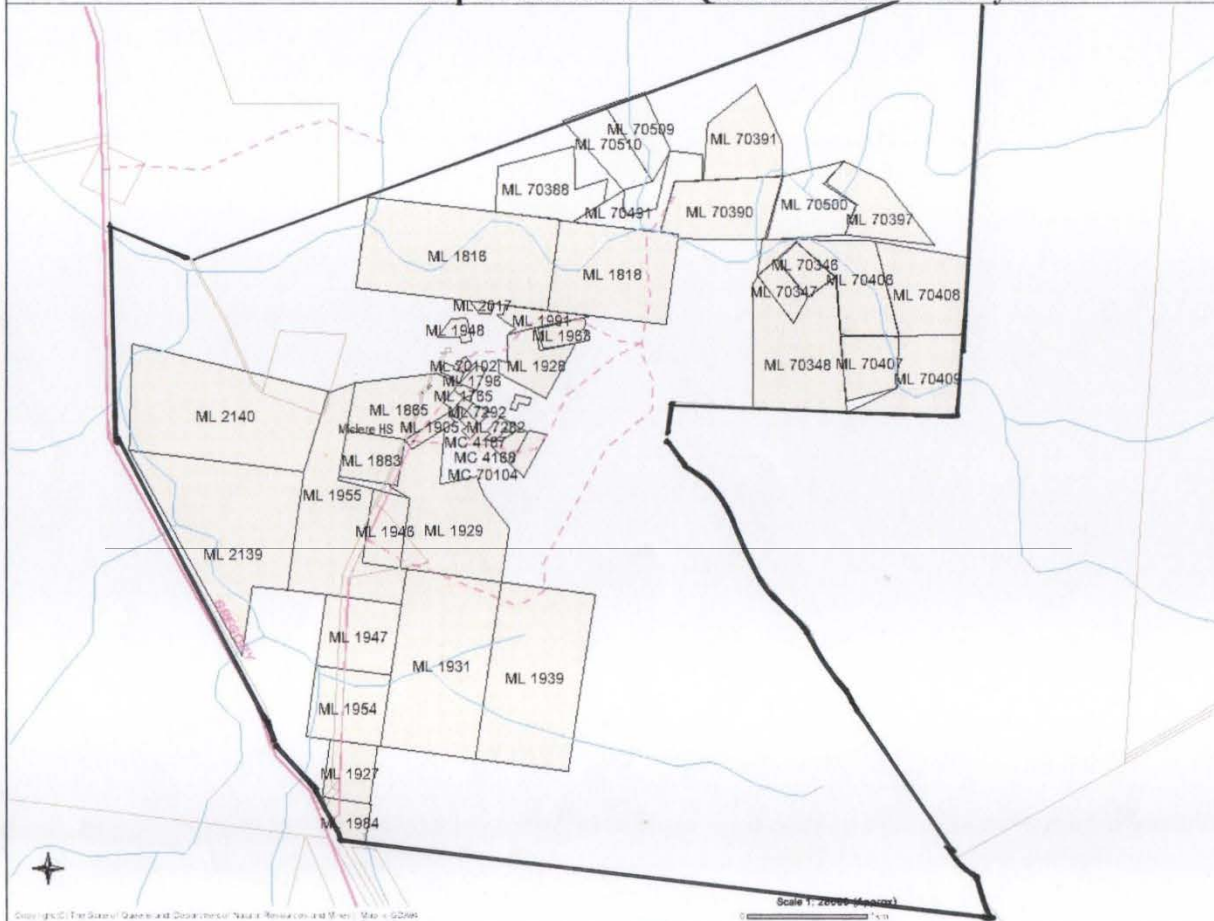
I again thank you for the opportunity to submit my recommendations and appreciate the consideration by the Committee.

Janet A Appleton

Examples of areas requiring rehabilitation



Map Produced from Queensland's IRTM System "MIDLERE" via CLEERMONT



**Legend**  
 Mining Claim  
 Mining Lease  
 Application  
 Granted

lot 24 CP/190115  
 G1PL/2560  
 Parish: Midlere  
 County: Dickson  
 Shire: Isaac Regional Council  
 Area: 3740 hectares

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