

Submission No. 4
11.1.25
12 August 2014

12The Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Emailed to: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

12 August 2014

RE: Submission on the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Galilee Basin State Development Area

I have serious concerns about the impacts of the proposed Galilee Basin State Development Area (SDA), which my properties, "Avon Downs", Clermont and "Glen Avon", Clermont fall within.

The associated rail lines will negatively impact landholders in the region by bisecting properties, interrupting cattle movements, changing surface water flow, affecting flood plains and degrading the natural value of the land.

I am concerned that these impacts, and the threat of compulsory acquisition for all landholders within the SDA will decrease the value of my properties, the viability of my business and impact the lifestyle we value here in Central Queensland.

An alternative route that avoids the floodplains of the Belyando and Suttor river systems should be investigated.

There is still considerable uncertainty about whether the rail lines will go ahead. **A sunset clause should be introduced to ensure that if the projects do not proceed within a set timeframe the SDA is revoked.**

A state Development Area is meant to be declared in the public interest, and yet the costs of the rail projects to existing, profitable industries in the region has not been assessed. A full cost benefit analysis that examines the long term impacts on the agricultural industry is needed.

If the impacts of the SDA and the rail lines on landholders are going to be minimised we need a better dialogue with the government and the companies who are building the rail lines. If public hearings associated with this inquiry are going to be held, at least one of them should be held in a location where landholders can attend, e.g. Clermont.

Sincerely,

Richard and Robyn Simmons

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