

Submission No. 13

11.1.25

14 August 2014

The Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Emailed to: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

13 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 property falls 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 property, the viability of my business and impact the lifestyle we value here in Central Queensland.

My property is already equally halved by the Aurizon Abbot Pt Newlands rail line and with the SDA at present it appears that one half of the property would be further split into 2 quarters. This would have huge impacts on the regular movement of stock in the grazing and general property operations.

The station homestead and associated infrastructure are in the SDA so if the project goes ahead our quality of life is going to be extremely negatively affected with the air pollutants (coal dust, diesel fume particulates) and noise.

There is also a major source of water for the property located in the SDA that would be at risk with the interference to the hydrology of the Bogie River by the construction of a bridge in that position.

As the State Government already has the powers to compulsorily acquire land if needed when project proponents and landholders cannot reach agreement, I do not understand why the SDA is regarded as necessary in this instance.

I was advised in a letter from the Co-ordinator General, Barry Broe, that the Governments preferred option is that the proponents and landholders reach agreement themselves. At the present time I have had no communication as to who the proponent is or what the proposed project might entail. Negotiation, communication is at this point non-existent which I find very concerning.

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. Collinsville.

Sincerely,



NAME: James Gordon

[Redacted address information]

ADDRESS: [Redacted]
NAME: [Redacted]

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