

Submission No. 17

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

14th 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), on the various properties included.

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 these properties, the viability of these businesses 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, (such as five years) 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.

I would like to close by stating that I am not opposed to the expansion of Abbot Point or the building of these rail lines.

However, the rail lines should be built in a spot where they do not affect local flooding or have minimal impact on the graziers affected.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]