

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

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**From:** Phil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 December 2018 8:00 AM  
**To:** State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee  
**Subject:** Public submission - Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018

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Phil Browne  
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Committee Secretary  
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Dear Secretary,

Please accept this submission supporting the **Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018**.

I am pleased to support this common-sense Bill that will protect future generations. We expect our legislators to protect citizens, and this can be achieved by passing this Bill to ban all mining of thermal coal in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

However, for the reasons I list below, I don't believe the Bill goes far enough - it should be amended to ban all new thermal coal and gas projects in Queensland.

Australia is a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement which aims to keep the lid on global temperature rise. It is impossible for Australia to comply with our obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement, if we allow massive reserves of coal to be dug up and burnt. Scientists are warning that the carbon emissions from this coal - no matter which country ends up burning it - will make it impossible to stop climate change.

The October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report confirms that the world must keep coal in the ground to be able to prevent a global temperature rise of 1.5 degrees, which would lead to runaway climate change.

The scientist are warning us. And the UN is even now criticising Australia for dragging our feet taking action on climate change. We are already seeing worse droughts, heatwaves and bushfires - all resulting from climate change. Leaders of some of our neighbouring Pacific Island countries have urged our government to do more to stop their island states from being inundated by rising sea levels resulting from global warming causing the polar ice-caps to melt at an unprecedented rate.

Australia has not opened a new coal basin for mining in many decades - so we don't need to do it now.

Instead, we see credible polls repeatedly showing overwhelming support for leaving coal in the ground. Plus, in Queensland we are voting with our feet and putting rooftop solar on our homes at the highest per-capita rate in the world. Australians clearly love renewable energy and in a country with ample opportunities for large-scale wind, solar and pumped hydro, there is no excuse for our government not to support renewable energy projects more - especially as, due to the falling cost of renewables, investing in massive new coal mines risks this investment and the supporting infrastructure becoming a stranded asset as the world moves

further away from coal - as we already seeing on a massive scale in countries like China and India. In coming decades nobody will want to buy our coal.

As a health professional, I have also observed higher rates of tropical diseases, including Ross River fever and Dengue fever, being diagnosed in people living in sub-tropical areas of Queensland, hundreds of kilometers away from the tropics. These diseases were previously confined to the tropics, but due to global warming, they are now marching further South, spreading their debilitating harmful effects and requiring increased public spending on hospitals and health services that treat the people with these diseases.

Deadly Irukandji jellyfish have also recently been found as far south as Fraser Island and Bribie Island - on the footsteps of Brisbane and our wonderful Gold Coast beaches. Global warming has allowed these deadly pests to spread hundreds of kilometers further South than previously found. Just this week there are credible media reports of three separate incidents of tourists having to be evacuated by helicopter from Fraser Island for emergency treatment at Hervey Bay hospital following suspected Irukandji stings. Imagine how these deadly jellyfish can kill off Fraser Island tourism, as well as Gold Coast tourism once they arrive on this tourist strip.

Fraser Island, the Great Barrier Reef and the Gold Coast are all major tourist destinations with thousands of people employed in tourism jobs. The Great Barrier Reef has seen year-on-year coral bleaching, which our scientists tell us is the result of global warming and rising sea temperatures. No tourists - domestic or international - will want to travel to see a dead reef. We can not afford to risk losing these tens of thousands of Fraser Island, Great Barrier Reef and Gold Coast tourism jobs by allowing climate change to kill off our reef and for Irukandji jellyfish to take over Fraser Island and our Gold Coast beaches.

If you have any doubts about the need for this Bill, may I suggest you speak to a rural firefighter about the worsening impact that climate change is already having on our prolonged and often-severe bushfire season.

Sincerely

Phil Browne

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"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realised I was somebody": Lily Tomlin