

Mr Bill Tait (J.P.)



Wednesday, the 2nd of January, 2019.

Mr Chris Whiting MP,
The State Development, Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee.

C/- The Committee Secretary Dr Jacquie Dewar,
Parliament House,
George Street,
BRISBANE, QLD, 4000.

re the above mentioned parliamentary
committee's inquiry into the so-called
"Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amend-
ment Bill 2018" and seemingly re-
lated matters.

Dear sir,

I fear that the Queensland Legis-
lative Assembly may not be getting
the whole story as regards this

I note that, as indicated on the committee's inquiry-webpage, the explanatory notes to the said Bill, outline its objective as, simply an effort "to contribute to Australia's commitments to pursue efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by 2100 by preventing any coal mining in the Galilee Basin".

The said notes then go on to refer to "the IPCC Special Report" and "the Paris Agreement" as justification for the targets of that proposed objective. This submission is not a comment upon the merits of the said Special Report, or for that matter, the Paris Agreement itself.

The point of this submission - is that, whilst the Bill appears to be, some kind of attempt, to enshrine, part of an international agreement (or convention - or treaty - if you like), into domestic law, there may well be, other, as yet undisclosed, and, more - Party - political matters, involved, in it all, for, well, for example, I mean, for all I would know - or have any direct - like - inside knowledge of, myself, these matters, may even go back, as far as, the notorious alliance between, unnamed so-called "conservationists", and the Australian Labor Party (ALP), and what is more - to the point, the then rumoured, sort of 'private deal', supposedly

done, as a kind of trade-off, for the gazetting of the very so-called "Wet Tropics" - areas - in far northern Queensland, wherein the so-called "Dry Tropics" would be left more unprotected - or (you know) open to full-scale industrial development - in northern Queensland, that was divulged to me, by at least one, then disgruntled member, of the Greens' Party* - whom I was introduced to in the wake of the infamous Mundingburra by-election.

Be that as it may, what I do think I know, is that, the once proposed so-called PNG-gas-pipeline, which was - eventually (or maybe even somewhat sort of belatedly - as I seem to recall) - publicly supported by the old Greens' - Party - political movement is

* please note that I have never, to my knowledge anyhow, been a member of any Political Party - let alone the Greens (or what have-yous).

to speak, with the issue of the then future commercial exploitation of the coal deposits and suchlike of Queensland's Galilee Basin, at least in so far as, well, while "the (proposed) need" - for the said proposed pipeline - was touted then, as being, to enable multinational corporate-PNA based-mining companies, to - i.e. continue their mining operations then and - sell off (to Queenslanders) a kind of by-product*, i.e. down into the very said "Dry Tropics" - area (not to mention the proposed so-called North Queensland Power Project - and associated heavy industrial developments - to be then - etc.)[†], and, but, as I was about

† which, or so the very said 'Greens-Exec' might have sort of quietly been arguing then, would somehow, offset, all of the physical, social and economic impacts of running a gas pipe (submerged across the strait and then) down through Cape York, around the "Wet Tropics", through public and private lands, and under watercourses...

* that, until then - at any rate, they'd simply been (in the absence of any effective environmental regulation to the contrary) in the practice of burning off-on site - with (no doubt) significant greenhouse gas emissions.

to recall, the very draft EIS, released publicly then, for comment, in relation to the matter, itself, only rightly, I suspect, in terms of so-called "best practice (in the context of the - even then - customary common law principles and objectives of Ecologically Sustainable Development [ESD])" anyway, identified, expressly, the coal steam methane-gas reserves, of the said Galilee Basin, which were apparently, a viable alternative option, that had enough to supply Queensland's needs (in point) for some "400 years" into the future (or something like that anyhow).

Well, it would be public knowledge, also then, for anyone diligently following the matter, in my view anyway, to the effect of that, for not entirely clear reasons, the said EIS -

process was subsequently aban-

doned, without much further ado, moreover, kind of curiously perhaps, one of the very said 'Green-Exec', years later, sort of resurfaced, with the notoriously vehement so-called "Lock the Gate" - campaign - or as "(like) 'champ" thereof, in order, or so it might seem - from all reports ~~about~~ albeit in the very popularist's press - as they say), to waging, a not necessarily, always entirely factually correct, publicity war, against the then seemingly burgeoning coal seam-gas industry, centred - at least in some great part - around developments proposed in Queensland, or, you know, that is, in my own personal opinion, how it might just have looked, from various reports, in the media.

So, well, that is, all, practically, it,

then, I, for one, might just wonder, to the effect of, ~~that~~, if the real - or a very sort of collateral - undisclosed Party political purpose, behind the said recently proposed Bill, would indeed be, merely some sort of publicity stunt (or, you know, an abuse of the parliamentary process effectively), and/or, an attempt to curry favour with the sort of ruling elite - or very ALP (at least for the time being) here in Queensland anyhow, by quietly honouring the sort of partisan spirit of ~~the~~ an undisclosed scheme of the said rumoured old private - Party - political pact, and, well, of course, I would then, humbly submit, that just maybe, that sort of thing, would be a matter, that the Honourable Members

of the Bill, they ought to only rightly be seen (even at this kind of late stage) to be seeking to enquire into, in the very public interest, or, you know, somewhat more in particular than, in the interests of open and accountable - or "as they say) transparent - not to mention responsible and representative - governance, oh, and, moreover, truly ESD. I might hasten to add?

I implore the committee, herein, then, to formally resolve, to accept, this submission, as a bona fide one, properly made, in the exercise of Free Speech, not to mention, the very public interest, to boot, and be that as it may, please, be sure to have the Committee Secretary contact me - personally - and preferably in writing then, in all good time,
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should the Honourable Members of the committee - have any further queries as regards these matters, or, in any event, to at least confirm, the committee's, very receipt, of this letter of submissions, as soon as would be practicable.

Thank you, at all events, for the committee's efforts to inquire into this matter - of the said Bill.

Yours sincerely

Bill Tait

Mr William "Bill (Billy)" Peter Tait