

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

From: Megan Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 January 2019 3:39 PM
To: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Subject: SUBMISSION re Mineral REsources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018
Categories: Actioned by Amanda, SUBMISSIONS

RE: Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018
[REDACTED]

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I urge you to support the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018 presented to the Queensland Parliament in October last year by Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar.

There is no place for more coal production and burning in Australia and the world. We face a climate catastrophe due to the burning of fossil fuels and production of greenhouse gas emissions. Australia, and Queensland in particular have a major responsibility to switch as soon as possible to renewable energy production to power our nation.

Our political leaders are well aware of the community opposition to coal mining in the Galilee Basin. This opposition grows daily - and especially in the aftermath of extreme weather events - including Queensland's recent catastrophic bush fires. Australia has an abundance of coal - that doesn't mean we should mine it because we can.

The proposed amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 are the very least our political leaders can see to in order to support Australia's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, not supporting the Amendment Bill in its entirety, would be an extreme act of negligence - especially in light of Parliament's collective responsibility to work for the common good.

The Adani Carmichael Coal Mine is a direct threat to the environmental integrity of the Great Barrier Reef, threatens water resources required for both farmers and the environment and should be stopped now.

Further coal mining projects in the pipeline, including exploration and new infrastructure will most definitely not only affect the climate, but alter the environment for all time. There are no second chances in rehabilitating our environment these days - the impacts of climate change esp. extreme heat and precipitation events - makes it way too expensive to stabilise altered/mined landscapes. The risk of polluting events from coal mines to the surrounding environment is more likely during extreme weather events. The community simply cannot afford such health risk.

I urge you to consider the ongoing costs to the community from coal mining in an age that can guarantee the economic return, technology, resources, and sustainable employment opportunity that renewable energy offers. We need the political will for change. We need a just transition away from fossil fuels and you have the opportunity to begin that process by supporting this Bill.

We all care about the welfare of our families and our environment. We all want to see a safe future for our children and grandchildren and our neighbours and their families. We already know people have been displaced by the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

I support the Bill's intent to terminate existing coal mining leases in the Galilee Basin, and the prohibition to grant new coal mining leases for land in the Galilee Basin. In addition, I believe the Bill should be amended to prevent all new thermal coal and gas projects in Queensland to ensure we are doing all that we can to reduce the risks of dangerous climate change.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Megan Benson.