

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

From: Maleah Gridley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 January 2019 10:02 PM
To: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Subject: Submission on the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018
Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing this submission in support of the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.

My years of environmental study and research, and consequential teaching of the sciences and geographical studies highlight the incredible importance of stopping all new coal mining in Australia, in particular the proposed Adani coal mine.

There is an inter-curricular focus of 'Sustainability' across all subject areas in the Australian school curriculum, and it is not something we simply teach in all Australian schools, but something we live and strive for.

If we are to have any hope of stopping catastrophic climate change and saving our precious Great Barrier Reef, we need to do everything we can to meet our commitments to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees.

I support the Bill's intent to terminate existing coal mining leases in the Galilee Basin, and prohibit grant of new coal mining leases for land in the Galilee Basin. In addition, I believe it 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.

To all those who do not understand the link between stopping coal and gas projects in order to save our future, mining precious resources and their subsequent use in society releases high levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. These have reached unnaturally high levels since the start of the Industrial Age, and continual to climb exponentially. This is not a natural increase. The human-induced level of gas causes a shift in complex environmental processes, setting off many positive feedback systems. These leading to more extreme weather systems, including climatic warming, rising sea levels, and eventual ecosystem collapse, unsustainable for human life.

I encourage those with great power and responsibility who read these submissions to ensure they understand the impact of even ONE new coal mine and the need for change within our society, even if that means the loss of profits and economic opportunities in the form of coal and gas.

The horrifying impacts of coal mining, from the extraction, production, transport, combustion and waste removal processes, can be read and cited at https://sourcewatch.org/index.php/Environmental_impacts_of_coal But by far the most shocking fact is that Electricity generation (which in Australia relies mainly on coal) is the largest single contributor to CO2 emissions, at 37.2 per cent of inventory emissions. Australia is also ranked at #15 on the country list of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1.28%), and with only 0.3% of the World's population, we produce 1.3% of the World's greenhouse gases. This is unacceptable and decisions like yours can start to improve these statistics.

Change leads to new opportunities. Don't leave it to my student's generation to fix.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission,

Maleah Gridley

