

From: Vanda (aka Wanda) Grabowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 December 2018 3:38 PM
To: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
<SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Submission on the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing this submission in support of the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018. I have been involved in the rescue, care and rehabilitation of koalas from 1993 to the present moment. Much of this involves working with a range of koala and other wildlife groups to ameliorate the perils that face koalas and in fact all native wildlife. Habitat loss and fragmentation is the main reason for the decline of koala populations and is a major problem facing all our wildlife in Queensland. Coal mining requires the clearing of all native vegetation including koala food tree species.

Koalas are wide-ranging and occur patchily throughout eastern Australia in rural and urban landscapes. Their populations are subject to a range of threatening processes including drought and climate change (Gordon et al. 1988; Seabrook et al. 2011; Adams-Hosking et al. 2012), disease (e.g., McInnes et al. 2009).

Koalas are specialist feeders and therefore dependent on the persistence of their food resources under climate change. A series of studies have been undertaken that demonstrate climate change can result in the contraction and fragmentation of high priority koala habitat regions.

These locations are essential for conserving koalas, now listed as a vulnerable species threatened with extinction. Maintaining the existing status quo of burning fossil fuels adding to global warming further exacerbates the problems of a declining koala and native wildlife population.

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 the granting of 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.

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