

From: [Liz Downes](#)
To: [State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee](#)
Subject: Submission Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018
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Submission on the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I wish to express formally my support for the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.

I am moved to do so because of my grave concern for the future of our State of Queensland, our country, our Pacific Island neighbours and for the health, safety, stability and well-being of peoples and nations around the world, if we cannot halt the acceleration of human-induced climate change.

The evidence of this change is around us as I write - it is evidence that has come faster than most of us could imagine. This year I hope to reach my 75th birthday. I have no personal memories of the global war that was coming to an end as I was born, but from my parents and grandparents and from what I saw with my own eyes as I grew up in England, I became very much aware of its terrible impact. In my early teens it was the prospect of nuclear war that cast its shadow over our natural high spirits and youthful optimism. But none of us could ever have imagined that our children and grandchildren would be confronted by a situation more truly global and devastating in its impact than that caused by any other human actions in the history of civilisation.

As a responsible member of the world community Australia, and its member states, have an urgent need and an immense moral obligation to play our part in keeping the extent of global warming below 1.5 degrees celsius. This is as much for the benefit of Queenslanders, and other Australians, as for our near neighbours and others around the world.

The effects of unrestrained climate change on our Great Barrier Reef (and on the tourism and fishing industries which depend upon it) are only too clear. The prospect of more frequent and more severe cyclones and storms, of longer and more severe droughts and of bushfires of far greater intensity and extent than anything which Queensland has experienced are not only likely to produce actual harm to individual Queenslanders, their homes and livelihoods, but can hardly fail to undermine and de-stabilise our economy.

How dare we leave this dangerous legacy for our children and grandchildren to inherit! We know the facts and the science; we know the causes and solutions. We know, surely, that we cannot keep digging fossil fuels out of the ground, and either burning them ourselves or shipping them off around the world.

As an individual citizen I try to live sustainably and to ensure my carbon footprint is as small as it can be. I expect my Government to make a clear commitment to reduce its exploitation of, and dependence on, fossil fuels. For this reason I support the aim of this Bill to terminate existing leases in the Galilee Basin and to rule out any new coal-mining leases in that area. Going further, a ban on granting new fossil fuel leases should be extended across Queensland.

It is only by taking strong measures that we can make a difference and start to turn the tide against the rising dangers of climate change

I thank you for allowing me to make this submission which I hope you will seriously consider.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Downes

