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TRIM: R19/

25 January 2019

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
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Dear Secretary

SUBMISSION: MINERAL RESOURCES (GALILEE BASIN) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018, introduced by Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar on 31 October 2019.

Following is Council's submission:

- If this Bill goes through, Council considers it will be the commencement of stopping all coal mining activities in Queensland and Australia.
- The Queensland Government has a thorough assessment and approval process for resource projects, which regulates thermal coal mining. The project assessment framework is put in place to ensure the responsible development of the State's resources.
- Prohibiting coal mining in the Galilee Basin is unlikely to affect the demand for thermal coal globally. Australian coal is far better in quality than other coal throughout other parts of the world, with less environmental impact.
- Mining companies involved in the Great Artesian Basin have to contribute to the Capping and Piping Program to assist with conservation of GAB water. The environmental and economic benefits of this initiative is very significant.
- Future mines that could proceed in the Galilee Basin would potentially generate vast amounts of direct jobs and would generate substantial taxes, which in turn would help to fund more schools, hospitals and public services.
- Outback Queensland represents some 60% of the state with less than 2% of the States population. Recent Census data indicates that many communities within outback Queensland are reducing in population, including Flinders Shire due to lack of employment. Coal exploration throughout the Northern Region would create a whole range of skilled employment opportunities including apprenticeships, plant operators and labourer positions, which in turn has the potential to increase population to these communities.

The knock on effect from population decline has a significant impact on:

- Education delivery to our youth from a decrease in allocated teacher numbers
- Health services ceasing some specialised services
- Emergency Services employment numbers with a decrease in allocated officers

Council believes that the creation of a Galilee Basin Commissioner, similar to the Gas Fields Commissioner would facilitate better relationships, make recommendations to relevant Ministers and review effectiveness of implementing regulatory framework.

Resources are an important part of our local, state and national economy and the opening of the Galilee Basin after a long and tested environmental approval process will increase employment and business opportunities.

Therefore Council reiterates that it does not support the Minerals Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McNamara', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jane McNamara
Mayor