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30th January 2019

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

sdnraidc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Inquiry into the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.
<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/SDNRAIDC/inquiries/current-inquiries/I3MRGB> Due 1st
February 2019

Gecko Environment Council Assn. Inc, advises that its 400 members fully support this Bill to stop all coal mining in Galilee Basin in order to comply with the commitment of the State of Queensland with the Paris Agreement requirement to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2050.

The call for effective action on global warming by reducing greenhouse gases is increasingly urgent. The need for a rapid transition from burning of thermal coal for energy is due entirely to the failure of the world's nations to act effectively in previous decades and Australia and Queensland are complicit in this failure.

The impact of rising global temperatures can be clearly seen around the world with more and more severe extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns leading to water stress, deaths from heat stress, loss of biodiversity and the list goes on. All of these impacts can clearly be seen in Queensland and the hottest January in 2019 on record is just one symptom along with the devastation of years of drought.

If the current generation is to leave the planet in a liveable condition for the young and the yet to be born it is evident that a Bill which calls for the cancellation of mining leases in the Galilee Basin is essential. Indeed all coal mining leases need to be cancelled not just the Galilee Basin. We really have no other options.

The cost of failing to pass this Bill will be far greater than any cost that might be incurred in possible, but unlikely, compensation to mining lease holders. There will be other costs in transitioning the coal mining workforce to alternative work and in preparing mining towns for the transition, but these costs are minor compared to the unimaginable costs of the impact of the planet's temperature rising to 2°C by 2050.

The science of climate change cannot be challenged as we watch the predictions play out around the world and Gecko members, like millions of people, are extremely fearful of the future of the human race unless action such as this Bill is taken.

Gecko supports the objectives of this Bill as listed below and asks the Queensland Parliament to have the courage to pass the Bill and take an important step towards reducing global temperature rises.

To achieve its policy objectives the Bill will amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to stop all coal mining in the Galilee Basin. The Bill:

- prohibits the grant of a coal mining lease for land in the Galilee Basin;
- terminates any existing coal mining leases for land in the Galilee Basin;
- amends any existing coal mining leases which overlap with land in the Galilee Basin to exclude that land;
- confirms that no compensation is payable to the mining lease holders affected by the Bill; and
- requires the mines minister to table a report in the Legislative Assembly summarising the actions taken under the provisions of the Bill.

It is incumbent on today's Parliamentarians in Queensland to take action and pass this Bill even though they will not be representatives of the people of Queensland in 2050. A true people's representative works for the betterment of Queensland, not just in the present or term of office, but also for the long term.

Yours sincerely

Lois Levy OAM

Campaign Coordinator.

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