



1 February 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 Committee Secretary

INQUIRY INTO THE MINERAL RESOURCES (GALILEE BASIN) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Gladstone Regional Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in response to the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.

ABOUT THE GLADSTONE REGION

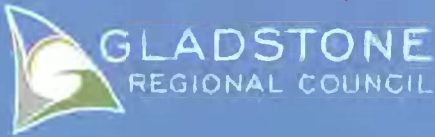
The Gladstone Region is located in Central Queensland, approximately 550 kilometres north of Brisbane and covers an area of 10,500 square kilometres. With two of the world's largest alumina refineries, Queensland's largest multi commodity port and a number of other major industrial giants sited locally, the Gladstone region is known for its employment opportunities and skilled workforce.

The Gladstone State Development Area continues to attract large industry to the region, including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry which exported its first tanker load in 2015.

A strong retail and service sector within the modern urbanised city of Gladstone together with tourism and primary production (particularly beef cattle and timber) provide abundant choice for workers and opportunities for business people, forming our population base of 62,814 people.

This diverse regional marketplace makes an annual contribution to the State economy through a Gross Regional Product of \$4.773 b (2017/18) and employs 1.2% of the State's workforce. During 2018, 67.9 million tonnes of coal was exported through the Port of Gladstone included in a total export figure of 97.7 million tonnes across a range of commodities including raw materials, container cargoes, grain and scrap metal¹. Resources play a large part in the success of the Gladstone region.

¹ Gladstone Ports Corporation *Origin & Destination of Cargoes*



GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT OF ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION

Gladstone Regional Council supports the Isaac Regional Council submission which notes that the Bill should not pass on the following grounds:

1. The resource industry plays a major role in the State and national economy.
2. Mining in the Galilee Basin will generate economic benefits for support industries and services and provide a degree of certainty for small businesses across their region.
3. The demand for thermal coal will not be impacted by this Bill.
4. Responsible government will continue to support investment in both the resource and renewable sectors.

We acknowledge that Isaac Regional Council will be affected should the proposed Bill be passed by Parliament, as outlined in their own submission letter. Of particular significance to Gladstone Regional Council, who are committed to actively searching for opportunities for growth and economic diversity, is the lack of opportunity for support industries and services should thermal coal mining be forced to cease.

In our own drive for prosperity we are ever mindful of our commitments as trustees of the environment and our obligation, therefore, to consider all aspects of the Bill. With global coal demand forecast to be stable through to 2023, according to the International Energy Agency (2018)², supply will be sourced from other basins as opposed to actively reducing consumption.

We therefore appreciate this opportunity to state that Gladstone Regional Council does not support the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Burnett'.

CR MATT BURNETT
MAYOR

² International Energy Agency, *Coal 2018 Analysis and forecasts to 2023*