



1 February 2019

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

Email: sdnraide@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Submission: Mineral Resource (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill)

I write on behalf of the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils - the representative body for the eight councils of the State's North West – Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, McKinlay, Mount Isa and Richmond.

At our meeting on Thursday 31 October 2019, the Board resolved to write to the Committee to express its opposition to the Bill. This action is in support of our member council – Flinders Shire Council, which would be directly affected if the Bill becomes law. In addition, the councils of the region are home to the North West Minerals Province and recognize and support the prudent use of the State's natural resources including its minerals.

Indeed, our region contributes \$5.1billion to the State's economy of which 66 percent comes from mining. This contribution equates to \$176,000 per head of population compared to \$66,000 per head across the State. Not only does this mean jobs for residents of the region, 25 percent of all jobs, but also 3,500 workers from other regions work within the North West's resources sector. This contribution to the State's revenue supports teachers, nurses, doctors, police officers, paramedics and emergency service workers – the list goes on. A growing State needs jobs and services and should not be denied the opportunities further development of its resources sector can provide to meet these needs.

Notwithstanding this economic benefit, the councils support rigorous environmental controls and conditions on any mining approval including coal no matter where it is mined in Queensland. Subject to world leading regulatory standards being imposed coal mining should be permitted in any Basin. Indeed, it is duplicitous to seek the banning of coal mining in one Basin and not others if the same environmental standards and controls are imposed across all of them.

While coal continues to be mined worldwide and used to generate electricity and in steel production it is counter intuitive to ban its mining and export from one Basin in Australia particularly when Queensland coal has less environmental downsides than that mined overseas.

We call on the Committee to oppose the Bill and recommend it be rejected by the Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hoffman PSM
EXECUTIVE OFFICER