

To: Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural
Industry Development Committee
[REDACTED]
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

From: Karl Barnsdale
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Submission to the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

Please accept my submission to the parliamentary commission as an individual who has made a career out of coalmining, in Queensland, over the last 20 years.

I do not agree with: *“The Bill amends the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 to clarify that only persons who are employees of a coal mine operator may be appointed as certain statutory office holders. “*

I would like the opportunity to express some concerns:

I have been a Coal mine worker for more than 20 years. Through this time I have been given an opportunity to support my family, expand my knowledge and advance in my career. I have held senior statutory positions at many mine sites in Qld during this time. I strongly disagree with the proposed amendment as I believe this will not achieve the policy objective, in fact, I believe it will have a negative impact on the industry and its people. In my opinion the removal of the ability for statutory positions to be held by people that are not employed by the Coal Mine Operator will introduce another level of complacency. Having a competitive environment encourages people to work harder at their profession and be better professionals. Being better professionals in statutory roles means:

- Having pride in your profession
- Understanding obligations
- Enforcing safe behaviours
- Reporting poor practices or sub-standard procedures
- Engaging in the process
- Striving for better outcomes, systems or procedures

I am also disappointed in the consultation process, it appears to be non-existent. The first I heard about the proposed amendments were through social media. From my experience, everyone wants to go to work and come home to their families, friends and loved ones the same way they left that morning or night. Those people that then want to advance their careers into statutory positions do so because they want to have a positive impact on safety and make the industry a safer place. To only target those people in statutory positions is insulting because these people are already trying to make the mining sector a safer place. They need support through better access to information constructive training and continual feedback sessions through the Department. The roles and responsibilities of statutory positions are managed through systems, procedures and processes that

are underpinned by the Act and Regs as well as recognised standards to ensure an acceptable level of risk.

I also believe that applying restrictions to an individual's choice of employer will remove competitiveness within the industry and see a lot of contract statutory office holders turn away from the industry. To lose so much passion, experience and knowledge would be detrimental to the coal mining sector of this country.

I ask that the requirements for statutory office holder's policy be removed from the proposed bill and individual contractors be safe guarded from any future proposal that can have a detrimental effect on their ability to operate.

Thanks