

**To:** Committee Secretary  
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural  
Industry Development Committee Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 400

**From:** Joel Treasure  
ERZ Controller  
JT Deputy Services PTY LTD.

Committee Secretary.

I am writing this submission in response to the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

Firstly I would like to thank the committee and governing body in the effort to try and make a positive change to the safety culture of the coal mine industry to reduce the number of fatalities, HPI's and serious accidents that have occurred recently. However in an attempt to do so a proposal has been tabled that states.

“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 strongly disagree with the proposal and the notion that statutory roles working solely for the coal mine operator will provide a safer workplace and reduce the number of fatalities, HPI's and serious accidents.

The idea that a sub contract in a statutory role will not fulfill their role to the level of competency as a statutory official employed directly by the coal mine operator is wrong and not proven. The notion that a statutory official working for themselves in a sub-contracting capacity will provide an unacceptable level of risk to fellow coal mine workers due to the fear of being reprimanded has nothing to do with the employer but everything to do with the person fulfilling the role.

In my experience working as an ERZC for a permanent employee for the coal mine operator and as a sub contractor, I find absolutely no difference in how the role is undertaken. The obligation to the legislative requirements relating to statutory officials isn't a guideline its an obligation. The commitment to ensure you provide a safe work environment for all coal mine workers in your assigned district isn't determined by who you work for.

I also believe that being forced to work for a coal mine operator removes the freedom of choice that is a right of employment. Being a statutory official shouldn't remove the right to decide who you can work for and in what capacity and or effect your livelihood. In doing so will only see more experienced people in statutory roles leave the industry and in turn have a negative impact on the health and safety of coal mines and coal mine workers.

Regards.  
Joel Treasure

