

Committee Secretary.

State Development, Natural Resources and Agriculture,

Industry Development Committee,

Parliament House,

George Street,

Brisbane

From:

Lekh Thomasson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mob [REDACTED]

Dear Committee Secretary,

Please accept the following submission to the parliamentary commission regarding the proposed Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 introduced by the Honourable Anthony Lynham MP on the 4th February 2020.

I would like to direct attention to the section which refers to: " The Bill amends the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 to clarify that only persons who are employees of a coal mine operator maybe appointed as certain Statutory Office Holders."

With 22 years in coal mining activities, 13 years as an ERZ controller/ Deputy, having held a permanent deputy position for 4 of those years and 9 years as a contract deputy.

I have held positions in many of the Bowen Basin mine sites.

At no stage has there been any reprisal against myself as either a contract or permanent deputy.

The position of deputy has a significant statutory responsibility; all underground activities rely on your knowledge of the coal mining Act, Regulations and the site SHMS. You are the sites Underground Mine Managers representative in the underground activities and the statutory roles are a team effort, with the safety and health of all coal mine workers being our primary role.

I'm at a loss to where the opinion that a contract deputy is less efficient at the role than a deputy employed by the coal mine operator. In both instances your obligations are the same, only when you are a contract statutory official your contract can be cancelled much easier than the permanent. In

having said that why would I jeopardize my family's livelihood by making decisions outside of the Act, Regulations and SHMS.

More focus needs to point toward:

1. Training of all coal mine workers from competency based to time based
2. Coal mine workers in planning and coordinating roles should hold a Statutory Official qualification.
3. Regular auditing of all Coal Mine workers knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities, this must be an outside auditor.

There are many other forgotten methods of keeping all Coal Mine Workers safe, at the end of the day we all have the obligation and responsibility to maintain a safe work place and prevent the senseless injuries and deaths.

Removing contract Statutory Officials to permanent roles of the coal mine operator is not only taking away our freedom of choice, but also limiting the coal mine operator to undertake their business as we have seen over the last economic downturns or when they need to ramp up their business.

Thank you for allowing us to voice our thoughts.

Yours in safe mining,

Legh Thomasson