



# LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE LTD

C/- 15 Lamington St, New Farm, QLD 4005

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Party,

I am writing on behalf of Lock the Gate Alliance, our supporters and our alliance of local groups throughout Queensland.

Lock the Gate Alliance is a coalition of farmers, graziers, Traditional Owners and people from across Queensland's cities and towns, uniting to protect our land and water resources from inappropriate coal and unconventional gas mining.

In the lead-up to the coming Queensland election, we are writing to seek commitments from your party to improve the control of mining and gas in Queensland and better protect agriculture, water resources and local communities.

Of particular concern is the impact on water resources:

1. CSG projects are extracting 65,000ML of groundwater<sup>1</sup>, mostly from Great Artesian Basin aquifers, which is depleting farm water bores without any requirement to obtain licences..
2. The Land Court has ruled that the Acland Stage 3 coal mine expansion on the Darling Downs is likely to impact groundwater and adversely affect landholders in the vicinity of the mine for hundreds of years<sup>2</sup>.
3. The Adani coal mine alone will extract an average of 26 million litres of groundwater per day and will threaten unique Great Artesian Basin springs<sup>3</sup>.

**In light of the very serious threats posed by both coal and unconventional gas mining to water, land and public health, we respectfully request a written response from you to the following. If elected, will your party act to:**

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment 2016. Underground Water Impact Report for the Surat Cumulative Management Area

<sup>2</sup> New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors and Chief Executive, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (No. 4) [2017] QLC24

<sup>3</sup>

- **Protect people's health by:**
  1. Giving landholders and Traditional Owners the right to say 'no' to mining and gas
  2. Placing a 10km buffer around homes to protect them from coal mines and major gas infrastructure, and a 2km buffer between homes and gas wells
  3. Restoring full community objection rights to unconventional gasfields<sup>4</sup>
  
- **Protect our food and water by:**
  1. A legislative ban on any unconventional gas or open cut mines or expansions on mapped Strategic Cropping Land
  2. Legislative no-go zones for unconventional gasfields in the Fraser Coast/Wide Bay Burnett and Channel Country
  3. Placing strict limits on the volume of water that can be extracted from the Great Artesian Basin for mining and unconventional gas.
  
- **Ensure the mining industry fulfils its rehabilitation obligations:**
  1. Prohibiting final voids, and requiring all mined land to be returned to an approximate original contour
  2. Mandating a progressive annual rehabilitation ratio target of 1:1 (disturbed area to rehabilitated area)
  3. Fixing the Queensland financial assurance calculator so that it fully reflects the cost of rehabilitation and
  4. Charging the mining industry a surcharge of 50c per tonne of shipped product to raise the required funds to seriously address Queensland's abandoned mines legacy.
  
- **Ensure a sustainable economy by:**
  1. Requiring that mining and gas companies must hold comprehensive environmental insurance to cover all potential pollution and natural resource damage from their activities.
  2. Increasing royalties up to 15% and reinvesting these funds into regional Queensland
  3. Developing a state-wide mine rehabilitation jobs plan for Queensland

In relation to specific mining projects that are currently being considered by the Queensland Government, will your party act to:

- **Stop the Acland Stage 3 coal expansion by:**
  1. Rejecting the environmental authority and mining leases outright as recommended by the Queensland Land Court.
  2. Put in place permanent protections for the Darling Downs so that a new application is not lodged for coal mining over this high quality agricultural land.

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<sup>4</sup> The failure to include transitional provisions in the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act and subsequent amendments to it, has meant that landholders and communities have lost the right to object to most Environmental Authorities for CSG

3. Invest in the Darling Downs as a centre of excellence for value-added agriculture and clean energy, and provide restructuring support and re-training for any affected mine workers.
- **Ensure that the Adani Carmichael coal mine does not benefit from public funds and does not incur a major public liability by:**
    1. Vetoing the proposed \$900M loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility
    2. Requiring Adani to post an upfront cash bond reflecting the full amount of financial assurance (based on an independent calculation)
    3. Requiring the Adani Carmichael mine to meet a 1:1 progressive rehabilitation ratio and
    4. Prohibiting any final voids as part of the project's final landform

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in this letter should that assist you in your consideration of these matters. We look forward to receiving your response.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RH', is centered on a light purple rectangular background.

Rick Humphries  
for Lock the Gate