

Mining & Pollution

Weak mining regulations and sub-standard air pollution controls hurt Queenslanders' health, damage farmland and degrade the natural environment. Digging up and burning polluting fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil is the most significant contributor to climate damage. Mining for fossil fuels has global, and also local impacts - for land and communities. We don't need to mine for fossil fuels - there are real, safe alternatives that provide more jobs and a better future for Queenslanders.

Suggested policy solutions for the next Queensland government:

Phase out mining, burning and export of fossil fuels

- Cease issuing any new exploration permits for thermal coal, gas and oil; refuse extensions to existing exploration permits; and do not renew any permits that lapse.
- Not approve any new thermal coal, gas or oil operations, or the expansion of existing operations.
- Develop a clear plan and timeline to phase out thermal coal mining with properly resourced plans to help impacted communities transition to new jobs and industries with a sustainable future.
- Stop using public funds to subsidise polluting fossil fuel projects⁵.
- Introduce stronger regulation to control indirect emissions, particularly fugitive and migratory emissions from gas production and coal mines. Establish a system to measure and publicly report on scope-3 emissions from Queensland's fossil fuel exports.
- Rule out coal mining in the Galilee Basin, including withdrawing state approvals for any mine not already constructed, including the Carmichael mine.
- No discounts or deals on royalties, or subsidies, for fossil fuel projects.

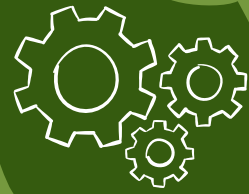
Strengthen air pollution controls

- Strengthen air pollution monitoring and enforcement, including a more effective means of assessing cumulative impacts of air pollution. Work to strengthen National Environment Protection Measures for noxious emissions including dangerous particulate pollution. Use licencing, planning approvals and relevant state regulations to tighten air pollution requirements and protect public health.
- Audit power station Environmental Authorities to bring them up to best practice regulation, including to ensure that all toxic air emissions from power stations are regulated and that toxic air emissions are regulated and mitigated.
- Introduce strong regulations to limit toxic stack emissions from coal-fired power stations in line with international standards and fit best practice pollution controls, which can reduce toxic air pollution by more than 85%.

Mining & gas regulations

- Finalise the implementation of mining rehabilitation reforms by improving and extending the reforms to the gas industry to better ensure that gas companies are forced to deal with their own toxic legacy and Queenslanders are not left to bear the risks.
- Develop a strict new waste regulation regime to apply the gas industry and end self-regulated beneficial reuse proposals which put rivers and farming country at risk from the toxic chemical waste the industry produces.

⁵ Including all grants, concessional loans, royalty holidays, direct investments, tax concessions and other subsidies.



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- Give farmers the legal right to say no to CSG on their land.
- Implement the recommendations from the Queensland Audit Office review of the CSG industry⁶.

Modernise mining laws

Bring our mining laws into the 21st century and ensure that Queensland has a sustainable and viable mining industry in a world transitioning to net zero emissions, with limited water resources by:

- amending the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to require the preparation of a strategic plan to guide the release of exploration tenements, that is consistent with the Paris Agreement objectives and with Queensland achieving net zero emissions by 2050;
- amending the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to provide that the 'public interest' includes limiting global warming in line with the Paris Agreement;
- restoring water laws to require that all water resources – including aquifers affected by mining – are managed within limits that can be sustained indefinitely - removing the unlimited right to water provided uniquely to the resource sector and ensuring all resource sector water take is included transparently in water planning;
- streamline the Land Court objections hearing process to make it consistent with appeal rights that are available for environmental authorities for petroleum leases.

No backwards steps:

- Do not allow uranium mining or nuclear energy in Queensland.
- Retain and implement Queensland's mining rehabilitation laws.

⁶ <https://www.qao.qld.gov.au/audit-program/managing-coal-seam-gas-activities>