



## Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Chair: Ian Rickuss MP

Parliament House Brisbane

### Public to have a say on changes proposed to mining laws

Landowners and community groups will have opportunities to put forward their views about proposed changes to Queensland mining proposals at three public hearings next week.

The Parliament's Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee is examining whether the State Government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014 should be passed by Parliament.

Chair of the committee and Member for Lockyer, Ian Rickuss MP, said changes in the Bill to notification and objection rights for mining proposals and access arrangements for restricted areas on farms topped the list of issues raised by 382 submissions lodged with the committee.

"The changes proposed to public notification and objection rights are not intended to take away people's rights to comment on major mining projects, nor alter people's rights to comment on the environmental approvals for mining proposals. The committee will use the hearings to examine how people's rights will actually be affected by the changes proposed in the Bill, and whether the changes are soundly based and reasonable."

"The Bill proposes major reforms affecting the resources sector and the equally important agriculture industry." Mr Rickuss said.

"The Government has made a commitment to protect agricultural land by strengthening the rights of landholders directly affected by mining operations through changes to the land access and restricted land frameworks."

"For resource companies, five existing acts would be merged into one set of laws to cover all resource activities and landholders' rights. Having one common set of laws instead of five makes sense, and could give Queensland projects and companies a competitive edge without lessening landholders' rights."

"We encourage anyone who has an interest in, or questions about, the Bill to come to our hearings."

"Officers from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines who drafted the Bill will also attend the hearings."

The committee will hold its hearings in Toowoomba on Tuesday 19 August and Mackay and Townsville on Wednesday 20 August. These hearings follow the committee's first hearing on the Bill held in Brisbane on 6 August.

#### TOOWOOMBA PUBLIC HEARING

**WHEN**

Tuesday 19 August 2014  
11.30am – 2.30pm

**WHERE**

Burke and Wills Hotel  
554 Ruthven Street Toowoomba

**MACKAY PUBLIC HEARING**

<b>WHEN</b>	Wednesday 20 August 2014 9.00am – 12.00noon
<b>WHERE</b>	Flinders Room, Mackay Grande Suites 9 Gregory Street Mackay

**TOWNSVILLE PUBLIC HEARING**

<b>WHEN</b>	Wednesday 20 August 2014 3.30pm – 6.30pm
<b>WHERE</b>	Townsville Yacht Club 1 Plume Street South Townsville

The committee must report on the Bill by 5 September 2014.

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Ian Rickuss MP 0417 728 392  
**For further information:** please phone the Committee secretariat on 3406 7908 or 1800 504 022  
email [arec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:arec@parliament.qld.gov.au) or visit the [committee's website](#).