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19 September 2018

Bonnie Allan
Committee Secretary, Additional Committee Support Unit
Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

By Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au
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Dear Bonnie

RE: Inquiry into Water Use by the Extractive Industry

We are in receipt of your letter, received on 13 September 2018, regarding the enquiry into water use by the extractive industry, and specifically the comments made by Mr Bruce Currie.

In 2009 the company submitted two mining lease applications to the Queensland Government to develop and operate two thermal coal mines for export purposes. The proposed mines are situated 170 kms west of Emerald and about 30 kms east of Mr Curries' property in Central Queensland. We have conducted extensive environmental assessments at both State and Federal government levels. This is usual practice for major mining projects and we obtained the regulatory approvals in 2012-14.

The projects were subsequently challenged by parties including the Curries regarding environmental concerns. We have addressed those matters in the Queensland Land Court, Queensland Supreme Court, Queensland Court of Appeal, and the High Court of Australia. In all cases due process was afforded to the parties, and in every case our proposals were upheld. This is in the public record. It can be said the objectors were given every opportunity to test their concerns properly and fully.

We did not contact the Curries initially because our studies concluded the mines would not affect their water resources. Their property is a substantial distance from our projects. The studies and outcomes were tested extensively as described above. We proposed the Curries sign a Make Good Agreement in the same way as proposals made to other landholders in the vicinity. This is standard practice, and many have accepted our proposal and signed agreements with the company.

We hold the view the Australian regulatory processes are robust and well balanced.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Taylor
Executive General Manager