

8 April 2015

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretariat

*Landholders' Rights to Refuse (Gas and Coal) Bill 2015
Submission*

We are primary production landowners in Bowen, North Queensland.

We have read the Bill, Explanatory Memorandums and literature in relation to this proposed Bill. We applaud the introduction of the private Bill.

There has been a serious erosion of freehold landowners right over time by a succession of prior Federal Governments and the Courts. We consider we should return to the basic premise that freehold land ownership denotes just that - you own and control the land you have purchased.

It is ridiculous when freehold land is paid for and owned, that it can be so severely affected by others rights which a landowner is obliged to defer to. Those third parties have not purchased the land, do not pay rates on the land, however, when they come onto it, they treat it as their own, abuse it, disregard landowners rights (fencing, gates, stock etc) and complain about landowners trying to fight to protect what they have purchased.

It should be a basic fundamental right that freehold landowners are able to refuse all entry and activities on their land if they choose to do so. Productive primary production lands should be protected. The Government are pushing for food security in the future, however, they have not demonstrated their commitment to this as they have allowed primary production land to be ruined and severely affected by mining companies to date.

This Bill should pass through both houses of Parliament with the full support of all parties and members.

Yours faithfully,
David & Leah McDonnell