

Members of the Senate Economics Legislation Committee

Dear Senators

I am writing to make a submission to your inquiry on the Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures) Bill 2018.

I am one of the many Australian business people and community members benefiting from the development of the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earths Project in the East Kimberley of Western Australia. I am a Jaru man and live in Halls Creek. The development of Browns Range has given me the confidence to progress plans to grow my one-man contracting business and take on several employees from Halls Creek and the local Aboriginal community of Ringer Soak. The business currently provides a front end loader and operator for ore loading at the Browns Range site on a 24 hour per day basis. We operate the loading service around the clock with two 12-hour shifts each day. Once the business has been established I intend to expand, with the acquisition of further earth moving equipment and personnel providing additional services to the Browns Range site and surrounding region.

Northern Minerals has purchased a front-end loader which I lease from them and use to provide this service. Browns Range has been a life changing opportunity for me and my family.

This contract is enabling me to provide employment and training opportunities in one of the most remote parts of Australia, where there is very little other chance for employment for local Indigenous people.

Development of the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earths Project would not have been possible if Northern Minerals had been unable to access cash refunds for eligible R&D expenditure in excess of \$4 million per annum. I ask you to think of the many small business like mine, and local people who will be employed at Browns Range, when you consider the impact of this Bill and the cap on R&D cash refunds.

I understand that the sudden change to the Australian Government's Tax Incentive Scheme, proposed by this Bill, will mean that even though the Bill hasn't yet become law, its passage as is will mean Northern Minerals cannot claim for eligible R&D expenditure over \$4million in the current year. This means that the company must find the money it had budgeted to receive from the R&D cash refunds in excess of \$4 million from another source. I know from operating my own small business that sudden changes like this can have a devastating impact on a business and ask you to consider whether changing these rules retrospectively is fair.

Please amend the Bill to support critical mineral projects like Browns Range.

Your sincerely

Ricky Tchooga

Owner Djaru Contracting Pty Ltd

