

Senators,

I am writing to support the Senate Inquiry into the Federal Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2013.

Firstly, it seems an issue of common sense to protect water catchment areas from the hazardous effects of mining. It is an insult to basic intelligence to believe the mining industry capable of regulating itself, and has shown repeatedly in the past it will always choose profit over the environment. Yet here we are going through the slow, degrading process of protecting our human rights. A process in which I don't really have much faith in but considering what is at stake is worth going through the motions to protect.

Secondly, the various types of mining these corporations are trying to undertake in agricultural, environmentally significant, and water catchment areas needs to be properly researched by independent scientifically and community based bodies to ensure that it does not leave a legacy of pollution and general degradation to the land, natural resources and wildlife.

Thirdly, I would like to make a point that decisions continuously seem to be made on an economical/financial level without considering social and moral factors that are in no way less important factors impacting on the population's wellbeing. These values seem to have been temporarily lost and devalued and are the driving force behind the problem. The notion that morality and social/environmental responsibility is just as important to people as money, may undoubtedly be difficult for many to understand however is central to the very core of humanity.

The fact that other less harmful industries like tourism, information technology, clean and free energy technologies are completely overlooked due to the mining industries power over the government and community is shameful. The media is saturated with the mining industries, money, influence and outright lies and is in woeful breach of its duty of care to the people. Hence the mining industry is directly affecting and inhibiting the development of many other industries, research and education and the entire fabric of our society due to one thing alone. Profit.

Regards

Sarah Luckie