

**Evans, Carol (SEN)**

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**From:** Igor O'Neill [inform@mpi.org.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 December 2000 6:55 PM  
**To:** corporations.joint@aph.gov.au  
**Cc:** aviva@im.org  
**Subject:** submission re ccb2k

Aviva Imhof  
29/10 Carr Street  
Waverton NSW 2060

The Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Statutory Committee on Corporations and Securities  
Suite SG 60  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to you to support the spirit and intentions of the Corporate Code of Conduct Bill 2000.

This year we have witnessed a number of major ecological disasters and violations of human rights by Australian mining companies. These are an embarrassment for all Australians and a setback to the good name in which we could conduct business overseas.

Ok Tedi, Freeport, Lihir, Porgera and Kelian are just a few examples of Australian mining operations which have brought disrepute to the industry and the country.

Australia is partly responsible for the Esmeralda mining disaster in Romania and should therefore be accountable. There are a number of actions we must take:

Australia must facilitate the legal right to financial compensation for the victims who have suffered from operations such as the clearly inadequate procedures used by the Australian owned Esmeralda Explorations.

Legislation must be introduced so that the overseas operations of Australian mining companies, such as Esmeralda Explorations and BHP, are subject to basic human rights and environmental standards irrespective of where their operations are based. This would reassure communities, governments, potential investors and business partners in other countries, that Australian corporations would be operating in an ethical and accountable way. The precautionary approach would protect communities and their environments, maximise shareholder value in the long run, and minimise the risk of costly compensation pay-outs. The resulting credibility would be a competitive advantage.

The M.C.A voluntary code of conduct is inadequate. The environment is precious and it saddens me to see bad environmental and social practices being undertaken by Australian companies, be it in minerals or other industries. We wouldn't let this happen in our backyard, you must act now to prevent it happening elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Aviva Imhof  
29/10 Carr Street  
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