

Legislation Committee

From: Peter Robertson
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2016 12:09 PM
To: Legislation Committee
Subject: Submission on Mining Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Dear Committee

Due to the fact that we have just completed submissions to and appearances before two other current government inquiries (Bushfires; EPA) we do not have the capacity at this time to present a detailed submission on this important legislation.

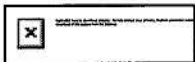
We do however make the following broad points and we seek the opportunity to appear before the Committee when hearings are scheduled in April.

1. We are concerned at any moves to further place environmental assessment and decision making responsibilities within the Mines Department (DMP), as opposed to the EPA or DER, because (a) DMP is conflicted, (b) it lacks appropriate statutory environmental objects and (c) it does not have the appropriate environmental policies, skills and resources;
2. We are concerned by amendments being made to the Environment Protection Act via mining legislation in order to facilitate approvals for mining;
3. The EPA is there to carry out rigorous independent environmental impacts assessments for all proposals likely to have a significant impact on the environment and it must be free and able to carry out its statutory functions accordingly - without any suggestion that it has given up or been stripped of its responsibilities to the environment, the public and future generations.

Yours sincerely

Peter Robertson | Campaigner: Kimberley; Great Western Woodlands
The Wilderness Society WA Inc.
2 Delhi St., West Perth 6005

T: (08) 9420 7246
www.wilderness.org.au



Join The Wilderness Society: Freecall 1800 030 641