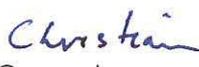


10 December 2018

The Hon Christian Porter
Attorney-General
Native Title Unit
3-5 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General 

Re: Queensland Resources Council support for the Minerals Council of Australia's submission on the exposure drafts of the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* and *Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate Legislation Amendment Regulations 2018*

I am writing to confirm the full support of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) for the positions outlined within the Minerals Council of Australia's (MCA) submission on the exposure drafts of the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* and *Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate Legislation Amendment Regulations 2018*.

QRC is the peak representative organisation of the Queensland minerals and energy sector. QRC, with support from its members, worked closely with the MCA to develop the submission which conveys industry's view on the proposed reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the native title system.

QRC welcomes the proposed blanket validation of section 31 agreements that are potentially affected by the *McGlade* decision. This amendment has been a high priority for the Queensland resources sector and is essential to restoring certainty and stability for all parties to section 31 agreements.

However, I would like to emphasise that further consideration and work is required around the reforms regarding historical extinguishment including the proposed new section 47C and the extension of the future acts regime to areas under sections 47, 47A, 47B and 47C before there is a determination that native title exists. QRC does not support these amendments in their current drafting, for the reasons outlined in the MCA submission, and holds significant concerns that the practical implications have not been fully considered.

Given the gravity of the identified issues which may result from these changes including the uncertainty around implications for future compensation, QRC recommends a working group is established, including state and territory governments, to understand and propose changes to ensure the amendments are workable and do not disadvantage any parties or stakeholder group.

QRC looks forward to continuing our participation in the reform process. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Andi Horsburgh, Manager Social and Indigenous Policy on andeah@qrc.org.au or via phone 07 3316 2509.

Yours sincerely



Ian Macfarlane
Chief Executive

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