



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Ref CLLO/17043

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee Report No. 2 – Black lung white lies, Inquiry into the re-identification of Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis in Queensland (the report), which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 29 May 2017.

Under section 107(4) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (the Act), the government's response to the report is due to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within three months of the report being tabled, i.e. by 29 August 2017.

The Select Committee is currently conducting further inquiries in relation to its extended terms of reference, which relate, among other things, to this additional category of workers. The Select Committee's reporting date for the extended terms of reference is 29 September 2017.

Further to this a draft exposure bill has now been referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee (IPNRC) for consideration with a report back date of 5 October.

In my view the important work that has been undertaken by the Select Committee and its future work would be best considered as a whole rather than in a segmented manner.

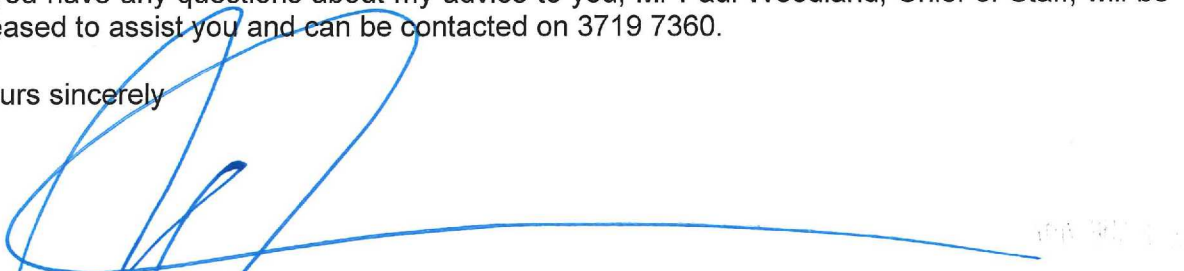
The government's view is that it is better to consider all of the Select Committee's recommendations once tabled along with any recommendations that may arise out from the deliberations of the IPNRC in order to provide a comprehensive response.

The report makes 68 recommendations, many of them about administrative and governance arrangements for coal mine workers and an additional category of workers, namely workers in the coal supply chain who are not mine workers. These workers are likely to be outside the ambit of legislation relating to coal mining health and safety.

Accordingly, as the responsible Minister, I provide this letter as an interim response to the report under section 107(5)(a) of the Act and for tabling under Standing Order 31(2), and advise that a final response will be provided to the Legislative Assembly by 29 November 2017 in accordance with section 107(5)(b) of the Act.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, Mr Paul Woodland, Chief of Staff, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
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Minister for Natural Resources and Mines