



Hon Andrew Cripps MP
Member for Hinchinbrook

CLLO/12010

12 JUN 2012

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 23 May 2012, forwarding for response petition 1865-12 as tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 February 2012.

I am aware of community concerns about exploration permits being applied for throughout South East Queensland.

The government is committed to delivering certainty to Queenslanders through statutory regional plans that clearly identify appropriate land uses. These statutory regional plans will provide certainty to all stakeholders about the use of land, and will minimise land use conflict. As stated in LNP policy, a robust and consultative statutory regional planning framework allows policy to be tailored to regional variations and, just as importantly, allows regional communities to make a contribution to the framework during the consultation phase, so that each plan best matches community aspirations.

These regional plans will clearly identify appropriate land uses in individual zones across the region, give proper statutory planning protection to strategic cropping land, and establish suitable statutory separation distances between resource industry projects and other land uses that are incompatible, such as residential areas.

While this will provide for much-needed regional-scale land use certainty, the existing legislation also provides a regulatory framework to protect residents and land holders directly impacted by exploration and mining proposals. Under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, certain land is defined as restricted land that the holder of an exploration permit cannot enter without the written consent of the landholder (such as within 100 metres laterally of any permanent building and 50 metres laterally from any dam).

In addition, under the existing legislation, Restricted Area 384 sets restrictions prohibiting new exploration applications in South East Queensland and within two kilometres of any town in Queensland with a population of 1000 or more. Queensland also has land access laws to balance the interests and sustainable growth of the resource and agricultural sectors.



**Queensland
Government**

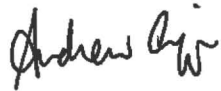
**Minister for Natural Resources
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Any enquires regarding this response can be referred to Mr Todd Ellis, Mining Registrar, Exploration Management Unit, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, on telephone 3008 5742.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cripps". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines