



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *MC/SDB – TF/13/1154 - DOC/13/9938*

25 JAN 2013



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Dear

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Thank you for your letter of 17 January 2013 about the Springsure Creek Coal project.

I have referred a copy of your correspondence to my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for consideration and direct reply to you.

Please be assured that Minister Cripps will give your concerns full consideration.

Again, thank you for contacting me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

CAMPBELL NEWMAN

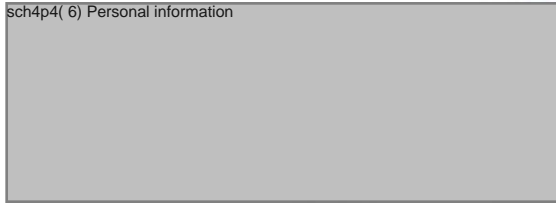
B/C The Honourable the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

By direction. For your information and direct reply, please. Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PREMIER

CAMPBELL NEWMAN

sch4p4(6) Personal information



17 January 2013

To The Premier
Campbell Newman

Digitised?	YES	NO
If digitised, this is now an ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT. ENTER ALL DATA in TRIM.		
Related Records		
Date	21 JAN 2013	in
Received		DPC
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Dear Premier

Our concerns are with the proposed mine by Bandanna Engery at their Springsure Creek Coal project.

These concerns include:

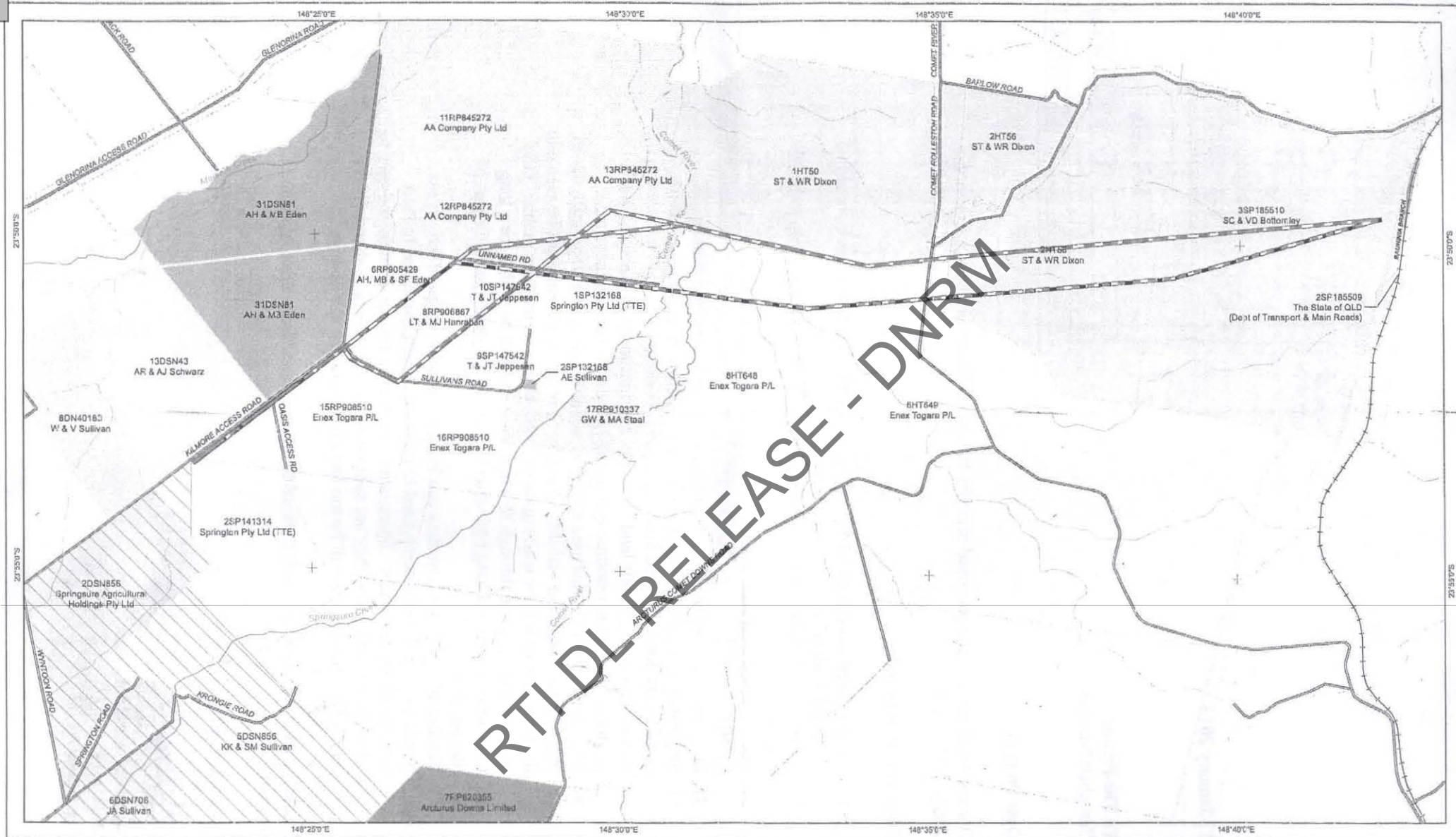
- 1) The proposed mine is on STRATEGIC CROPPING LAND which should be protected at all costs.
- 2) Their original claims of NIL SUBSIDENCE have now changed up to 1 to 2 metres.
- 3) The proposed haul road will cut across more STRATEGIC CROPPING LAND.
- 4) Proposed routes of haul roads cut across 8-10 different landowners.
- 5) Suggestions to shift haul road to cross another resource companies land (which cuts down affected landowners to 1-3) are met with answers of 'NO - we can't go through their land'. Why is it alright to affect the agricultural producer but not the resource company? Is it that we are easier targets?
- 6) The cropping land in this area is unique, reliable and is of a large scale which means it has long term viability. Smaller farming blocks may not be viable in the long term or will be made up in to larger blocks so they are viable. This area has already gone through this transition and will be viable for a long time into the future, a long time after Bandanna has destroyed their part of this landscape.
- 7) Bandanna's claims of how they can increase agricultural productivity are purely proganda and is being used to increase the attractiveness to their prospective shareholders. There is no recourse for the agricultural indstry to rebut the lies and deceit they are spin doctoring. By the time shareholders realise this deception it will be too late for agriculture in this area.

I thank you for your time and look forward to having you address some of these concerns.

Yours faithfully,

sch4p4(6) Personal information





RTI DL RELEASE - DNRM

NOTES
 Mining Tenement in: Department of Mines & Energy, October 2012
 Property Data: Property Data Solutions, November 2012
 Haul Road Options: Baramanna Energy, 04/12/12

DISCLAIMER
 In preparing this map, RLMS have endeavoured to ensure that the data and information are as accurate and reliable as possible. However RLMS cannot accept liability for any omissions or actions of whatever kind or nature based on this study. RLMS expressly disclaims any loss or damage that may arise therefrom.

WK:\CP 2\clients\Baramanna\12-511\003_Summary and Compilation Coal Transportation Route Options - Springsure Creek\Mappi-vg\Workspaces\Mining Lease Corridor\Landowners.mxd
 Created on 4/12/2012 by JPR

LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Option A | Cadastral Boundary |
| Option B | Major Watercourse |
| Option C | Minor Watercourse |
| Option D | Local Roads |
| Springsure Creek Mining Lease Application | Existing Railway |



CLIENT **SPRINGSURE CREEK COAL PTY LTD**
 PROJECT **SPRINGSURE CREEK COAL PROJECT**
 TITLE **LANDOWNERS - PROPOSED MINING LEASE BOUNDARY & INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT**
 DATE **DECEMBER 2012**





Hon Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Ref: M01072013
CTS 01529/13

25 FEB 2013

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sch4p4(6) Personal information

Dear [redacted] and [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 17 January 2013 addressed to the Premier concerning the proposed Springsure Creek Coal project. As the matters raised fall within the portfolio of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the Premier has referred the matter to the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Queensland Government recognises the importance of striking the right balance between protecting the State's unique and diverse environmental values and providing access to the State's valuable mineral and energy resources.

All applications for mining tenements in Queensland must comply with the relevant legislation under which the application is made and are subject to a strict regulatory process. This process is a thorough and rigorous procedure involving economic, environmental, social and native title assessments prior to any determination. The process also involves public notifications and provides for input and objections to any proposed mining lease and the associated environmental authority (EA). Any resulting EA is conditioned to provide appropriate protection of environmental values of the area as well as rehabilitation requirements and, in some cases, off-set requirements.

Springsure Creek Coal Pty Ltd lodged Mining Lease Application (MLA) Number 70486 on 19 October 2012. The prerequisite resource tenure for MLA 70486 is Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC) Number 891. Transitional provisions which exist in the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* exempt 'Any environmental authority application and any related resource application for a mining lease relating to EPC 891' from the provisions of the Act.

However, this exclusion only applies for resource activities under an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) resulting from the finalised EIS Terms of Reference relating to EPC 891, published on 2 June 2011. The issue of subsidence will be dealt with during the EIS process and will be incorporated into any EA that may be issued to Springsure Creek Coal Pty Ltd. The EIS and EA processes will also address any rehabilitation requirements for the company.

This department is aware of Springsure Creek Coal Pty Ltd's intention to construct a haul road to MLA 70486. All information provided to date has been preliminary and Springsure Creek Coal Pty Ltd has yet to confirm an exact route or to lodge a MLA for the proposed haul road.

Any application made by Springsure Creek Coal Pty Ltd for an authority to build a haul road through this area will be required to go through the same process as a standard mining lease application. This includes compensation agreements and discussion with relevant landowners, as well as compliance with the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (the Act), the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011*. The proposed haul roads identified in your letter do not appear to fall within EPC 891.


If you wish to lodge a formal objection against an MLA for the proposed mine or any associated haul roads, a Certificate of Public Notice (CPN) must first be issued in accordance with the Act. Once the Mining Registrar issues a CPN, the applicant for the mining lease must then satisfy the requirements of the Act with regard to notification of all affected landowners including any local authorities.

A copy of the CPN is also required to be published in the newspaper which circulates in the area of relevant land subject to the mining lease application. Information on the objection process will be provided in this publication.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, Mr Peter Donaghy, Regional Director, Mines – Central Region, of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 4936 0367.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information



Susan McDonald
Chief of Staff

STRATEGIC CROPPING LAND

DNRM SERVICE DELIVERY – LAND & MINES POLICY FORTNIGHTLY TELECONFERENCE

Wednesday 29 May 2013
2:00pm – 3:00pm

Teleconference phone: 1300 300 805
Conference code: 7478 907 077

Item	COMMENTS & ACTIONS	Who
73(2) Irrelevant		
Bandanna	- SD met with proponent recently. EIS not needed for transport corridor. Arguing temp impact. Not validating, want to lodge in July. <small>sch4(4)(4) Deliberative process</small>	SD

Pages 8 through 13 redacted for the following reasons:

Section 78B(2) RTI Act

sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament



Miner insists its systems keep land productive

■ **Bandanna Energy** has set aside \$3 million for research and technology under its announced Independent Agricultural Coexistence Research Committee, led by Basin Sustainability Alliance chairman David Hamilton and USQ soil scientist and gasfield commissioner Professor Steven Raine, to investigate the productivity of the farmland soils following rehabilitation. Bandanna says it plans to initially mine only its own farmland as a measure to showcase how successful coexistence can occur.

The company will be digging for thermal coal, paddock by paddock, while it intends to continue cropping and farming through the subsidence process. Bandanna says remedial works for subsidence will be ongoing and all modifications to drainage structures will be undertaken as soon as practicable to prevent erosion.

Bandanna says it will take at least eight years to mine Den-Lo Park, by which time it hopes to be able to prove to surrounding landholders through field days and

information sessions that the impacts to agricultural production are minimal. Despite this, landholders are troubled by the fact that if the project gets the green light from the State Government, the company will have been granted the right to mine over the full proposed area, including privately owned farmland, before it can begin its quest to prove coexistence is possible on the Bandanna-owned country. It is not commercially viable for Bandanna to mine only its presently owned land and it will need to expand into its entire proposed mining area over the planned 40-year production life.

■ **Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Cripps** has assured landholders there would be a "fair and transparent" process while the government considered the EIS for the project. He said he believed it was in the best interests of all stake holders that meaningful engagement took place between all parties to keep the issue away from the "inefficient" processes of the land court. "The landholders have a lot of concerns about this project. And I can

understand them. But I feel the landholders must engage in meaningful communication with the project proponents (Bandanna), who also have certain rights associated with their exploration permits," he said.

"If landholders are not communicating with the project proponents, how is the company going to be able to identify those issues they need to work on or more clearly emphasise to be able to address the concerns of the landowners? I will give the landholders every opportunity to seek advice and consultation with my department to parallel with the EIS process, which I am certain the landholders will engage with fully."

These are difficult decisions for Mr Cripps and Environment Minister Andrew Powell as they dig through details of the project to determine an acceptable risk, because while the state needs mining revenue, the government also needs to ensure the legacy of multi-generational family farms.

—Supplementary information: TROY ROWLING

ABOUT BANDANNA'S PLAN



Professor Steven Raine, left, and David Hamilton are leading the soil research project.



Major projects face delays in approvals

By TROY ROWLING

IN a move which could prove a setback to expected investment and construction timeframes for two controversial resource sector proposals, Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney has guaranteed there will be no government approval decision for Bandanna Energy's Springsure Creek Project near Emerald and Arrow Energy's Surat Gas Project west of Toowoomba, until after the statutory regional plans (SRPs) are released at the end of the year.

Mr Seeney said he expected this would mean a decision on the future of the multi-billion dollar projects would not be until 2014.

The news could prove a setback to the resource companies, which were both seeking government approvals this year to begin

construction early next year.

With both companies now going through the EIS consultation process, there has been some confusion among landholder groups in recent weeks as to whether the projects could still be given approval by the government before the SRP framework came into place.

While holding back project approval until after the release of the framework had been a pre-election commitment, Mr Seeney said there had been delays in the SRP formulation, which would mean a final government decision on these resource projects would have to be made next year.

"Working through the detail has been more complex than I expected," he said.

Large community and industry committees are meeting regularly to work through the complicated task of resolving conflicting land use demands between the agriculture and resources sectors by allocating primary land use across the regions, a system comparable to what is already carried out by local councils.

In a statement to *Queensland Country Life*, a Bandanna Energy spokesman said the company had not been made aware of any additional approvals which may be required for its Springsure Creek Project. Bandanna has already changed the design of the Springsure Creek project to meet the goal of the LNP policy to protect strategic cropping land," the

spokesman said.

"We see no reason to delay the approval of one of the few coal projects still proceeding, in the process sacrificing much-needed investment and jobs. We know people expect well-managed co-existence so they can have both local agriculture and the jobs and economic opportunity projects like this provide.

"We have sought to set a new benchmark in response to the LNP policy settings and there has been no suggestion to us of any delays in the timeframe or the rigorous approvals process that applies to all projects." Arrow Energy was unable to respond after comment was sought.

Working through the detail has been more complex than I expected.

DRAFTS of the regional plans for the Darling Downs and Central Highlands are expected to be out for consultation in July.

Mr Seeney (pictured) said while the drafts would provide clarity to impacted stakeholders on the direction the legislation was heading, he reiterated there would be no major government decisions on major



DRAFT PLAN

resource projects that would pre-empt the release of the final statutory regional plans. He said the final relationship between the SRP framework and the former Bligh government's strategic cropping land legislation is yet to be determined. Mr Seeney claimed in opposition that while the strategic cropping legislation was a "step in the right

direction" its relevancy in resolving coexistence conflicts was hampered because it focussed entirely on soil criteria.

The strategic cropping land act legislation was widely criticised by rural stakeholder groups which claimed the scope of the laws were too narrowly focussed and should have been expanded to protect grazing properties and farmland impacted by coal seam gas extraction. —Story: TROY ROWLING.

Pages 16 through 70 redacted for the following reasons:

sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament