



Hon Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Ref CTS 03426/13

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Ms Melissa Edwards
Resource Exploration Inquiry
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Ms Edwards

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into *Mineral and Energy Resource Exploration* and in particular, to the issues paper which was released on 14 December 2012. Please find attached the Queensland Government Submission (the submission).

The submission highlights the Queensland Government's current program of regulatory reform, including the streamlining tenure approvals project, the greentape reduction project, the land access review and the new statutory regional planning process. The submission also highlights the Queensland Government's commitment to red-tape reduction as supported by the formation of the Office of Best Practice Regulation and the Resources Cabinet Committee.

The Queensland Government would also like to take this opportunity to comment on the Australian Government's intention to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to include 'water resources significantly impacted by coal seam gas and large coal mining developments' as a "matter of national environmental significance". The Queensland Government believes the proposed amendments to the EPBC Act will increase the regulatory burden and create further duplication and delays to the approval process for large coal and coal seam gas projects. It is the view of the Queensland Government that this will be a significant disincentive to investment in these projects, which will have a major negative impact on this state.

I look forward to the release of the draft report in May 2013. If you have any questions about the submission, Mr Marcus Rees, Director, Land and Mines Policy, Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

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