



1st November 2011

Reference: WAC Submission Open Letter – Select Committee Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture) Amendment Bill 2011

The Secretary

Malcolm Lehman

Select Committee on Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture)

Amendment Bill

Parliament House

North Terrace

Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Malcolm,

WAC is a broadly based movement of community, environmental and social justice groups and individuals that formed in July 2009 in response to growing public concern and direction of water policy. Since that time WAC has held rallies, public forums and made numerous submissions. Further information can be found on our website.

While WAC acknowledges Premier Jay Weatherill's recent support for public scrutiny of the Roxby Downs indenture ratification bill ([Advertiser](#) 28/10/11), WAC notes that the select committee has not formally called for public submissions. It is imperative for democracy that this bill be allowed to follow due public consultation processes in both houses of the South Australian Parliament given its economic, environmental and social implications for the state and the nation.

There is time for due process. BHP Billiton predicted in its Olympic Dam Expansion Draft EIS 2009 section 5. "[Description of the proposed expansion](#)" that removal of the overburden would commence in the third quarter of 2010 following all necessary government and board approvals. The BHP Billiton board is now not due to approve the project until the middle of 2012.

WAC's submission to the select committee questions the indentures commitment to building a desalination plant in Upper Spencer Gulf when the eventual water resource requirements represents 0.47% of the current long-term consumption of water resources from the Murray-Darling Basin. The submission estimates gross earnings for the water to be sourced from the Point Lowly Desalination Plant to be \$129.86 per kilolitre.

As new water is not required until 5.25 years down the track after the commencement of the removal of the overburden, there is time to conduct a proper inquiry into water resources required by the expanding mining industry in South Australia and not to repeat the mistakes made to build the Adelaide Desalination Plant. WAC recommends the indenture be amended to allow for such an inquiry.

Water Action Coalition Contact Information:

<http://civictrust.net.au/page19.htm>

PO Box 190, Henley Beach SA 5022

Convenor: John Caldecott jec@ciq.com.au

Media Coordinator: Maxine Jones maxchris@adam.com.au



1st November 2011

Reference: WAC Submission Open Letter – Select Committee Roxby Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture) Amendment Bill 2011

WAC has long campaigned that the water crisis in South Australia during the Millennium Drought was man-made and resulted in political decisions to build large-scale desalination plants in our Gulfs that needs to be investigated by a Royal Commission. WAC believes the water crisis was entirely preventable by better demand management and prioritisation of water use by irrigation industries in the Murray-Darling Basin who typical earn an average of \$2.00 per kilolitre of water.

These matters were fully discussed at WAC's "[Privatisation: The Cost of Water Reform?](#)" forum held on the 18th May 2011 which was presented by the Water Action Coalition and supported by the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at UniSA.

Both Gulf St Vincent and Spencers Gulf are no places to build large-scale desalination plants. The [Assessment Report of the Environmental Impact Statement Olympic Dam Expansion](#) (September 2011) acknowledged how special the marine environment of Upper Spencer Gulf was when it stated "Spencer Gulf has a very high proportion of marine species endemic to the region and the relatively warm water, high salinity and sheltered conditions has resulted in the unusual presence of some communities with tropical and subtropical affinities". This is a situation that exists in both Gulfs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or if we can be of assistance to the committee.

Yours faithfully,

John E. Caldecott

Convenor

Attachments:

WAC Submission Open Letter – Select Committee Roxby Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture) Amendment Bill 2011 dated 1st November 2011
(WAC Submission Open Letter - Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification)_1Nov11.PDF)

WAC-D-009_Submission - Roxby Downs _(Indenture Ratification)_1-0.PDF dated 1st November 2011

Water Action Coalition Contact Information:

<http://civictrust.net.au/page19.htm>

PO Box 190, Henley Beach SA 5022

Convenor: John Caldecott jec@ciq.com.au

Media Coordinator: Maxine Jones maxchris@adam.com.au