



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *ERP/RL – TF/12/20547 – DOC/12/155094*

21 AUG 2012

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Dear Mr McCreath

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2012 about mining activity at Felton Valley.

I am glad you took the time to write to me about this important issue.

The Queensland Government does not and will not support open cut coal mining in the Felton Valley. While the former government issued permits to undertake exploration activities in the area, it should be understood that a lawful right to explore is the extent of the current entitlement.

To be absolutely clear, no company, whatever it chooses to call itself, has a right to develop a mining operation in the Felton Valley, and companies will not be able to secure such a right under the Government.

I can certainly understand why you are concerned by Ambre Energy's recent actions. The Honourable Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, is currently considering options to address the existing mining lease applications lodged for areas in the Felton Valley. I understand that you have also written to Minister Cripps and that he will be responding directly to you on this matter.

To provide certainty for communities like yours, the Government is implementing a new framework for Statutory Regional Planning that will clearly set out where it is appropriate, and not appropriate, for resource development projects to take place. We are prioritising your region and drafting of the Darling Downs Regional Plan has commenced.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

CAMPBELL NEWMAN