



Friends of the Earth Adelaide

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Secretary to the Committee

Select Committee of the House of Assembly on the Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification)

(Amendment of Indenture) Amendment Bill 2026

procedure@parliament.sa.gov.au

May 31, 2026

Submission to Select Committee on Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture) Amendment Bill 2026

Summary: This brief submission covers Community concern over the Bill's rushed inadequate process, extended legal privileges to BHP interests, toxic mining waste, and continued threats to Mound Springs & Great Artesian Basin waters.

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bill.

There is considerable community concern about the Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture) Amendment Bill 2026's rushed and inadequate process, the extension of legal privileges to the mine owner BHP Olympic Dam Corporation Pty Ltd's interests, the increase of mining leading to more toxic & radioactive waste, and the continued threats to the Mound Springs and Great Artesian Basin waters.

This submission is very brief, because the time allowed for review and submission was ridiculously short from 22 May to 1 June 2026 on such matters that are intended to last 50 years. It almost appears like the committee are anti-democratic and don't really want to hear from the residents of South Australia on this topic. We also find it unbelievable that the Committee will report on 2 June which is the day straight after submissions are due. How can the committee possibly read and digest the contents of submissions in that short time?

Our particular concerns include:

- 1, The shortness of the timeframe for submissions and reporting of the committee should be rectified by the Select Committee recommending a Public Inquiry with wide public interest Terms of Reference and facilitate public hearings into the Bill, and the House of Assembly should require this Inquiry. Such a Public Inquiry could be commenced in June and run for three months to September 2026.

2. The Bill should be amended to comply with Article 29 section of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

According to the United Nations Declaration, mining and hazardous waste resulting from mining (including radioactive waste) should not be imposed upon Aboriginal Traditional Owner's land without the free, prior and informed consent of all members of the affected community, rather than a select token few community members.

3. Regarding the water supply to the mine, the Bill should be amended to require the immediate closing of Wellfield A and the closing as soon as possible of Wellfield B. Any expansion of the Olympic Dam mine should be conditional on successful implementation of the Northern Waters Project, which should be funded 100% by the mine owner BHP Olympic Dam Corporation Pty Ltd and not the taxpayers of SA. Any further use of bore water from the Great Artesian Basin and the River Murray should not be permitted in order to protect the Mound Springs and Great Artesian Basin, and water taken from these sources should cease well before the planned date of 8 May 2036.

Yours sincerely

Robyn Wood
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