

# Can decisions by the Queensland Coordinator General be made democratic, fair, and just?

## Abstract

This project identifies unfair Queensland Law. Governments pass statutes to control and regulate both industry and the population. This project is restricted to the extractive mining industry and their interaction with fee simple titleholders and those with customary Native Title, via the Queensland Coordinator General (QCG). To identify the power granted to the QCG, I have undertaken a doctrinal analysis of the Acts pursuant to the granting of powers to the QCG. I identified powers that were discriminatory, and which enhanced benefits to the mining industry, at the expense of titleholders and the community. I am conducting qualitative research utilizing Participant Action Research of all stakeholders. I have interviewed private registered proprietors and will interview Traditional Owners to understand the impacts sustained. I requested that both classes of landholder provide solutions they believe will respect the circumstances of all parties. To understand all stakeholders, I will interview the legal representatives of landholders, mining company officers and QCG department officials. After finalizing the investigation, the project will propose improvements to statutes that impact stakeholders, to provide respect, fairness, and equity. The philosophy guiding this project is "Justice as fairness", articulated by John Rawls, with emphasis on the rights theory of Ronald Dworkins. The powers under statute were granted when it was believed industry must be restricted to the absolute minimum, enabling employment and economic growth. The community perception has changed. Corporates must hold a social licence. The expectation is that corporations respect sustainability and the democratic and cultural community rights.