



Ref: CB/LL/GG149

30 November 2015

Mr Rob Hansen
Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By Post & by Email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen

Re: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Queensland Parliament's Agriculture and Environment Committee inquiry into the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*.

As you would be aware, AgForce Queensland (AgForce) is the peak industry body representing the majority of beef, sheep and wool and grain producers in Queensland. AgForce strives to ensure the long-term growth, viability, competitiveness and profitability of these industries providing high quality food and fibre products to Australia and the world. Our members manage a significant proportion of Queensland's natural resources and contribute to the social fabric of rural and remote communities.

AgForce does not have any significant concern with regard to the intent of the proposed amendments. The two provisions of particular interest to AgForce are:

- Removal of provisions allowing the granting of stock permits for emergency drought relief. AgForce would prefer that this measure was retained, with appropriate amendment of dates, to provide the opportunity for future use as an emergency measure.
- Reversion of rolling term leases for agriculture, grazing or pastoral purposes within nature conservation areas and specified national parks back to term leases. The intention being to exclude these leases from the rolling term lease provisions under the *Land Act 1994* to allow activities considered to be inconsistent to be phased out upon expiry of the lease.

We understand that as these leases are returned to term leases there will be no change in the term and/or associated conditions.

AgForce would request that the Department of National Parks, Sport & Racing continues to liaise with individual lessees to ensure that they are informed of the impact of these changes and that appropriate transitional arrangements are implemented. This is of particular concern where landholders are suffering the financial impact and associated emotional stress of drought conditions.

We would also like to continue to urge the State Government to adequately resource the management of protected areas to ensure that these do not present ongoing risks to production on neighbouring properties from weeds, pests and fire.

Yours sincerely



Charles Burke
Chief Executive Officer