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Rob Hansen - Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Submitted via: [vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hansen

Rob

**Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

This submission is made by the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (trading as Seqwater) in response to the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (the Amendment).

**About Seqwater**

Seqwater is one of Australia's largest water businesses with the most geographically spread and diverse asset base of any capital city water authority. Our operations extend from the New South Wales border, to the Toowoomba ranges and north to Gympie.

Seqwater has a legislative obligation to provide safe, secure, resilient and reliable bulk water supply for South East Queensland. Seqwater also provides essential flood mitigation services, manages some catchment based risks to water quality, and manages recreation facilities. The provision of a safe and reliable drinking water supply is critical for the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. A cost effective bulk water supply is also essential for strong economic development.

**Submission**

Seqwater supports the government's pursuit of biodiversity, water and climate outcomes which align with water industry reform. In particular, Seqwater notes the alignment of a number of Acts to achieve the government's desired outcomes. It has been conclusively demonstrated that riparian vegetation is required to maintain the stability of watercourses used for drinking water supply and Seqwater believes they should be protected in perpetuity.

Seqwater's detailed submissions in relation to the Draft Bill are identified in Attachment 1.

If you require further information regarding Seqwater's submission, please contact Seqwater's Principal Policy Officer, Mr Cameron Wearing via email to [REDACTED] or by phone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

  
**Peter Dennis**  
Chief Executive officer

## Attachment 1 – Seqwater’s submission on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Matter	Reference	Submission	Comments (if any)
<b>Amendment of Vegetation Management Act 1999</b>			
Proposed regulated vegetation management map	New section 128	Seqwater supports publication of the proposed regulated vegetation map.	The proposed regulated vegetation map indicates where new Category C (High value regrowth) areas are proposed to be protected. The new protection category will serve to protect important vegetation along watercourses, in particular the mid-Brisbane River, which is the conduit for 40% of the SEQ water supply. The protection of such vegetation is essential to prevent sediment from being washed into the river and threatening water supply.
		Seqwater submits that a Category R is required for SEQ watercourses used for drinking water supply.	It has been conclusively demonstrated that riparian vegetation is required to maintain the stability of watercourses and the quality of water they deliver. Defining a Category R for SEQ watercourses is necessary to protect drinking water supply and they should be protected in perpetuity. Furthermore protection of the watercourses is required to protect the broader economy of SEQ. Seqwater commends the work that is being done to protect the Great Barrier Reef through the Reef Sustainability Plan 2050 and believes that similar measures should be implemented in SEQ.
<b>Amendment of Water Act 2000</b>			
Applying for permit to excavate or place fill in a watercourse, lake or spring	Amendment of section 218	Seqwater supports the need for a person to apply to the chief executive for a riverine protection permit to destroy vegetation in a watercourse.	Vegetation confers stability on the bed and banks of a river preventing them from being eroded and threatening water supply. Sediment and erosion is a major issue for Seqwater which was evident in 2013 when a large volume of sediment forced the Mt Crosby Water Treatment Plants offline and as a result Brisbane came within 6 hours of running out of water.
		Seqwater requests that a complete watercourse map of South East Queensland be published.	Seqwater is concerned that not all of South East Queensland’s watercourses have been mapped. In particular it has been noted that they have not been mapped in the Logan catchment and as a result decisions as to what is a watercourse fall to individual officers. Seqwater has a number of water supply assets in the Logan catchment and protecting the stability of watercourses is essential if good quality raw water is to be available for drinking water supply.