

29 September 2016

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

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RE: Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) is the leading community-based organisation for sustainable natural resource management in Central Queensland. We are committed to long term sustainable use of our natural resources, and we value healthy ecosystems, a strong regional economy and a prosperous community. Membership of FBA comprises a broad cross section of the community, including representatives from sectors of Landcare, conservation, education, research, industry (including mining) and agriculture as well as representatives from Indigenous groups and local and Queensland Government agencies.

FBA have reviewed the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and commend the Queensland Government for addressing these important water management issues. This letter is submitted to provide full support to the proposed amendments contained in the bill, particularly the strengthening of environmental assessments processes for underground water extraction by resource projects; the new provisions for monitoring and scrutiny of underground water impacts during the operational phase of approved resource projects; and improved provisions of the 'make good' framework for underground water impacts, which further strengthen a landholders' rights to reparation if their water is affected by resource projects.

If you have any questions regarding our correspondence, please contact Cassandra Bouna, Senior Project Officer (Environment), on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Paul Birch
Chief Executive Officer