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6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Committee Secretary  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George St, Brisbane.

[aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re The Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

Gecko Environment Council wishes to advise the Committee that our members fully support this legislation. It is pleasing to see Queensland leading the way with this new reserve status, which will increase the protected estate at much less cost than acquiring land of high conservation value and designating it a national park.

With the current high rate of broad-scale vegetation occurring in Queensland resulting in the death and injury of too many of our native wildlife, it is essential that other methods of protecting our wildlife and native flora are adopted. This Bill will allow this with the Special Wildlife Reserves, which have the added benefit of being protected from mining and other damaging activities. It is particularly desirable that the status runs with the land in perpetuity.

It is also good to see that there is sufficient interest in conservation from land managers to want to enter into collaborative agreements with the Government for these new Special Wildlife Reserves. The degree of consultation with potential reserve land managers indicates that there should not be too many teething problems with the new legislation.

It is noted that it is possible for the Special Wildlife Reserve status to be revoked by Government. Obviously this would not be a desirable outcome, however we noted that there does not appear to be anything in the legislation about processes should the land manager fail to, in whole or part, carry out the conditions of the agreement leading to degradation of the land. Perhaps this will be in the regulations, but that is not clear.

Gecko hopes that this legislation encourages many land holders to commit to improving the conservation of our unique wildlife and enter into agreement with the Government with Special Wildlife Reserves.

Yours sincerely  
Lois Levy  
Campaign Coordinator  
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Environment  
Council

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