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***SUBMISSION TO: NATURE CONSERVATION (SPECIAL WILDLIFE RESERVES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2017***

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the abovementioned Bill. My husband and I are owners of Knobel Honey, a small family run honey business. My concerns/questions for the Bill are as follows:

1. What land will the Act be applied to?
2. Will beekeeping be restricted in Special Wildlife Reserves?

1. What land will the Act be applied to?

Recently Minster Miles commented on Facebook "the bill will have no effect on state forests. It's purpose is to allow private land holders to voluntarily protect their properties. Steven". Clause 12 of the Bill states that Special Wildlife Reserves will be applicable to freehold land, Aboriginal land and Torres Strait Island Land, land subject to a lease or reserve under the Land Act 1994. My concern is that the Bill also allows the Government to also apply Special Wildlife Reserves to Leasehold and Reserve land based on State interest?

I recommend that it be made clear what land this Act can apply to and what areas the State has in mind that it will apply it to. There should be more specific details of how the State will determine it's 'State Interest' ie criteria. Also the term 'materially affected' in section 43B(2) should be expanded on so that a *tenant* of a lease or reserve will have clear rights of when they do not have to enter into such an agreement. Also such a tenant's renewal rights should be protected so that if they decided to object they will not be prejudiced at the time of renewal of the lease.

2. Will beekeeping be restricted in Special Wildlife Reserves?

The Bill 2017 Explanatory Notes states on page 1: "The key objective of amendments to the Nature Conservation Act is to establish a new class of privately owned or managed protected area (special wildlife reserve) that will allow for the



protection of lands of outstanding conservation value from incompatible land uses; essentially, a privately managed protected area of equivalent conservation merit and protection to that of a national park.”

Under the Native Conservation Act 1992, s 184 states that beekeeping/apiaries will not be allowed in National Parks after 2024. ***This new Act therefore needs to clarify if it is giving the State Government the ability to create more areas where beekeeping/apiaries are banned and if so in what exact situation these will be?***

It is estimated that as much as 80% of honey that is produced in Queensland comes from Queensland Government Controlled Native Forests that will not be able to be accessed after 2024. I cannot stress enough the dire position Queensland Beekeepers are currently facing due to the Native Conservation Act. On a personal note it will destroy our family business and ruin us. To take away access to more land, from Bees and Beekeepers would be catastrophic and destroy Queensland beekeeping and horticultural industries.

“Giving beekeepers access to public lands is essential to the future of the honey bee industry and pollination dependent industries. Governments must ensure this to maintain the viability of major agricultural industries and to ensure the nation’s food security.”¹

As stated by Mr Peter Barnes, a Queensland beekeeper, “Under current legislation the honey industry in Queensland has no future beyond the year 2024. We cannot survive on pollination alone as pollination is NOT all year round. No business can survive a loss of 80% of their income e.g. honey production. The loss of a large part of the honey bee industry in Queensland will be devastating for horticulture industry and the effects will flow through to the wider community.”²

I hope that you take my submission into consideration. Thank you.

Kind Regards

Joanne Knobel

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¹ 16 June 2008, Committee Conclusion 3 from The Parliament of Australia House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources report on the Inquiry into the Future Development of the Australian Honey Bee Industry, *More Than Honey: the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries*. Chapter 3 clause 73

² 16 June 2008, Submission by Mr Peter Barnes, Qld Beekeeper to The Parliament of Australia House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources report on the Inquiry into the Future Development of the Australian Honey Bee Industry, *More Than Honey: the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries*. Chapter 3 clause 16