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3 April 2013

Mr Ian Rickuss MP
Chair
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Rhia.Campillo@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Rickuss,

Re: Inquiry into the Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

Please find hereunder our comments on some matters proposed in the above Bill.

Amendments to Petroleum Act 1923 and Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004

When converting decommissioned petroleum wells, especially coal seam gas wells, to a water supply bore or a water observation bore, strict undertakings to ensure the safety and health of humans, livestock, and the environment must be in place.

There must be full and thorough testing of the water prior to any decommissioning, to ensure that it is fully potable, free of any contaminants from petroleum residue, methane, or any other source.

Amendments to the Water Act 2000

Removing the requirement for a riverine protection permit to destroy vegetation

We feel that the requirement to obtain a riverine protection permit for the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring should remain, in order to ensure that any proposed vegetation clearing is undertaken within strict guidelines to minimise any harm to environmental values or the stability of the banks of the watercourse, lake or spring.

We note that there is the proposal to *retain an exemption in schedule 24, part 1, item 1 of the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 to allow the clearing of an*

area of vegetation (less than 0.5 ha) in a watercourse, lake or spring where the clearing is a necessary and unavoidable part of excavating or placing fill in a watercourse, lake or spring and the excavating or placing of fill is either authorised by a riverine protection permit or carried out under a chief executive approved guideline.

Retaining this exemption (to this extent) will ensure there is no duplication of approvals.

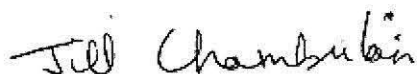
We are in favour of this proposal, but think, as stated, that the requirement for a riverine protection permit should remain in place for any proposed destruction of vegetation, to ensure that appropriate and adequate safeguards are in place.

Removing Declared Catchment Areas

Existing Declared Catchment Areas should remain in place to ensure that no land use activities will have adverse impacts on water quality in the catchment, notwithstanding possible over regulation. It is critical to the health and water quality of the waterways in a catchment that there are no adverse impacts from any activities on land in the catchment area.

I would prefer not to be called as a witness at the public hearing.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Chamberlain', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jill Chamberlain OAM
President