

CAPRICORN CONSERVATION COUNCIL



A voice for the environment

5 April 2013

Agriculture, Resource and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

E: arec@parliamentary.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: Submission to the Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) is a not-for-profit environmental organisation in Central Queensland established in 1973, covering the Fitzroy Basin and the coastal and marine areas from Baffle Creek to St Lawrence.

As a member group of Queensland Conservation Council, CCC supports the submission in its entirety and therefore all comments, recommendations and conclusions made by QCC regarding the *Water Act 2000* amendments.

Given that our organisation covers a large area of Central Queensland, particularly the Fitzroy River Basin, we are very aware of the environmental problems facing our waterways and catchments in the region, whether they be threats and issues from mining, agriculture or urban and industrial areas.

The Fitzroy catchment is the biggest catchment draining to the east coast of Queensland. It is under enormous pressure at the moment from existing coal mine operations and proposed expansions and new mines and gas fields, multiple dams and weirs proposed and CSG treated water being released into waterways. Some of the flow-on adverse environmental impacts to the catchment from these projects are the loss of biological integrity, habitat and function of riverine and wetland systems in the Basin due to large scale stream diversions and interference and removal of riverine vegetation and habitat from multiple mines. To the best of our knowledge, no one knows the cumulative impacts of stream diversions and native vegetation removal on creeks and rivers from existing and proposed mine operations.

Of particular concern for our organisation (but our concerns are not limited to these) are the proposed changes to remove the requirement of a Riverine Protection Permit to destroy vegetation and the removal of the requirement for licenses to interfere with watercourses. We do not support clauses 293, 294 and 228 in the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chantelle James'.

Chantelle James

Project Officer