

# SEQ Catchments

## Supplementary Submission on: Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013

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## Introduction

SEQ Catchments thanks the Committee for its valuable time to discuss our submission at the hearing held on 12 April 2013. During the hearing, we noted there were some issues surrounding the effect of removing vegetation matters from the provisions relating to Riverine Protection Permits under the *Water Act 2000*.

We are able to provide some relevant data about the impact of the change in jurisdiction from the Water Act 2000 to the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for applications for vegetation clearing in watercourses in South East Queensland.

In greater South East Region, SEQ Catchments has identified 60,640 hectares of riverine vegetation which potentially falls under the current *Water Act 2000* riverine protection permit assessment process. We have identified 18,616 hectares that will potentially fall under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* assessment jurisdiction (subject to the current 2 hectare trigger).

Our analysis shows therefore, that the change in jurisdiction from the Water Act process to the Vegetation Act process affects potentially 42,024 hectares or around 70 per cent less than is protected at present.

We have attached a map of a high risk catchment, the Lockyer Creek system, which outlines the changes in protection for that system. The vegetation extent marked in brown is protected under the current Vegetation Act jurisdiction. The vegetation marked red is the extra area protected by the current Water Act jurisdiction. With the proposed changes to the Vegetation Act jurisdiction in the Vegetation framework Amendment Bill 2013, the removal of the existing regrowth provisions exacerbates the difference in protection given there will be no Category R vegetation protected in South East Queensland under the Bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this supplementary submission and hope it assists the Committee with its deliberations.

