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28 October 2013

Mr Ian Rickuss MP
Member for Lockyer
Chair, Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

By email: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Rickuss,

***North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act
Amendment Bill 2013***

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee's investigation into the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013*.

As the largest agricultural crop by volume and value, the sugarcane industry is an important part of Queensland's four-pillar economy. For the sugarcane industry to be profitable, productive and provide environmental services into the future, Queensland's vegetation management laws need to be reformed.

CANEGROWERS is a member of the Queensland Government's Vegetation Management Framework Reforms Industry Working Group. This working group has been providing advice through consultation on the regulations following necessary reforms to the *Vegetation Management Act*, passed by the Queensland Parliament earlier this year.

Throughout the consultation process, the Industry Working Group found that there were some errors in the legislation that led to unnecessary duplication of regulatory requirements. CANEGROWERS strongly supports the amendments to the *Vegetation Management Act* in this legislative package. Removing these duplications will not undermine environmental protection, but will remove unnecessary red tape for primary producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your committee's inquiry. Please take the views of CANEGROWERS into consideration during your deliberations. I would be happy to discuss this issue with you and your colleagues on the AREC in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER