

Date: 29 September 2014  
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Your reference: NA  
Our reference: PD113/1045/01/05

The Research Director  
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Brisbane, Qld 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 (Bill).

The definition of a 'matter of local environmental significance' as defined by the *State Planning Policy July 2014* refers directly to the schedule 2 definition of a 'matter of local environmental significance' from the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

Removal of the definition for 'matter of local environmental significance' from the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* will leave the *State Planning Policy 2014* without definition for a 'matter of local environmental significance'. Officers from the City of Gold Coast consider there is a need for a definition of a 'matter of local environmental significance' within both the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* and the *State Planning Policy 2014*.

A 'matter of local environmental significance' is the key value used for the identification and protection of locally significant environmental features (that are not otherwise captured as a matter of National or State environmental significance). Removal of the definition for 'matter of local environmental significance' from both the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* and *State Planning Policy 2014* will provide uncertainty around the existence and potential to protect these locally significant features.

It is therefore recommended that a clear definition for a 'matter of local environmental significance' be maintained within schedule 2 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

The City of Gold Coast looks forward to continuing to work with the State and helping to deliver the right reforms to Queensland's planning system.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further do not hesitate to make contact with either myself or Christopher Davis via ph. 07 5582 8645 or email: [cwdavis@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:cwdavis@goldcoast.qld.gov.au).

Yours faithfully

Gail Connolly  
**Director Planning & Environment**  
*For the Chief Executive Officer*  
Council of the City of Gold Coast