



19 December 2011

The Research Director
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission on *Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011*

The Association appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the above Bill on behalf of local government. Since the commencement of the Environmental Protection Act 2004 local government has been involved in regulating environmentally relevant activities and has worked with DERM to improve the quality of these activities to ultimately provide a better environment in Queensland.

Since the commencement of the Greentape Reduction Project earlier this year the Association has worked with DERM on a local government working group to discuss different options that may be available in order to remove greentape for industry. Whilst it is pleasing that some of our comments from this working group have made it as far as the Bill, there is still some concern from local government that DERM is listening closely to industry to make changes but there is limited consideration being given to the administrative burden for local government in making these proposed changes. The potential reduction in opportunities for cost recovery for local government in managing environmental protection is also of concern. Local government also gained the added impact of managing commercial nuisance in 2009 with no option to cost recover for these activities so to consider the changes now, as proposed in the Bill, is of concern to the Association.

Ipswich and Logan City Councils have made submissions to the Committee with extensive comments on the Bill itself in relation to operational issues and the Association supports these submissions.

The Association also takes this opportunity to request to be heard at the Parliamentary Committee hearing in 2012 on this Bill.

Please contact Christine Blanchard, Principal Advisor, Environmental Health, on telephone 3000 2243 or email Christine_blanchard@lgaq.asn.au if you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hoffman', is written over a horizontal line.

Greg Hoffman PSM
General Manager – Advocacy