

12 August 2011

The Research Director  
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Email: earec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Submission: Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 (WOLA).

Overall, the majority of changes put forward in the WOLA will help to streamline a number of legislative processes and as such, Stanwell Corporation is supportive of the majority of proposed changes.

There is a small concern however regarding the proposal to change the requirement for establishing Community Reference Panels (CRPs) as part of the overall Water Resource and Resource Operations Planning Processes. CRPs have in the past provided extremely important forums for community members to have in-depth exposure to the policies and technical information used in both the formulation and amendment of Water Resource Plans (WRPs).

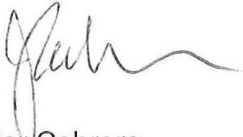
Stanwell representatives have participated on CRPs relating to different catchments throughout the State where Stanwell's assets are located. Participation on these panels has been extremely valuable as it has provided the foundation for ongoing interaction with community representatives, provision of in-depth technical assessments as well as a forum for getting access to up to date water related information.

Stanwell has a concern that by removing the requirement for CRPs that the complexity of the information provided in draft WRPs and ROPs will be harder for the community to digest through public meetings. CRPs have proven in the past to be an effective way of educating the community in a timely manner. Timeframes associated with the submission process also make it difficult for the general community to formulate meaningful responses particularly if the educating role of the CRP is not included in the process.

A suggestion to the process would be to accommodate flexibility in the Water Act regarding the requirement to appoint a CRP as proposed in clause 15 of the WOLA however, to include a requirement to canvas the community for input at the time of the Notice of Intent to prepare the plan as to whether the community within the plan area believes a CRP would give value to the process or if there are other 'peak body' groups that could serve a similar purpose. This would allow the community to have input into the process using consultation processes they are comfortable with.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be involved in the review process. Should you have any questions, please contact Nerida Gilbert, Water Management Specialist on the details below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Javier Cabrera  
Manager Environment (Corporate)

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