

12 August 2011

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

Dear Mr Hansen,

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) is pleased to provide comments to government on the draft *Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011* (the draft Bill). QRC are confident the changes represented in the draft Bill will bring many benefits to both industry and government, particularly through the simplification of the water resource planning framework.

The QRC is a not-for-profit peak industry association representing the commercial developers of Queensland's minerals and energy resources. QRC works to secure an environment conducive to the long-term sustainability of minerals and energy sector industries in Queensland.

QRC commends the perseverance of the officers involved in developing a single process framework for the concurrent development of a water resource plan and resource operations plan. QRC appreciates the Department's efforts to keep QRC informed throughout this process and its willingness to listen to industry's views. QRC would also like to acknowledge the quality work undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers in 2007—08 and the contribution of their review to the success of these reforms.

The single process framework will allow for consideration of both the draft Water Resource Plan and draft Resource Operations Plan at the same time, providing greater opportunity for stakeholders to make an informed judgement about impacts on individual circumstances. QRC recognises that even though the new streamlined process will eliminate some community consultation and ministerial decision steps, opportunities to engage will not be lost due to the continuous informal engagement required throughout the planning process. QRC is pleased the new process will provide significant time savings in the planning process.

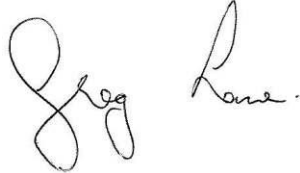
In regards to the introduction of a levy payable by petroleum holders, QRC will defer comment to the lead peak national body, the Australian Petroleum Exploration and Production Association (APPEA). QRC is keen to see further details about the new levy outlined in the Regulatory Assessment Statement.

QRC supports the indigenous amendments in the draft Bill including indigenous water reserves, Reference Groups and amendments to the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.

QRC also supports the miscellaneous operational amendments in the draft Bill that are necessary to provide for continued effective implementation of the water planning and management framework under the *Water Act 2000*.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Bill. If you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Andrew Barger on 07 3316 2502 or andrewb@qrc.org.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Lane'.

Greg Lane
A/Chief Executive