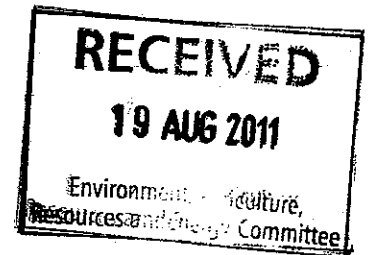




11 August, 2011



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

Dear Director

Re - Submission on the Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

Please find attached the Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective's (RGC) submission on the Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011.

Whilst you will see that the RGC supports the majority of recommended amendments, we have highlighted one major area of concern around opportunities for community input through consultation and community reference panels.

We trust that you will find our comments useful in highlighting the need to ensure that current opportunities are retained and reinforced for the community and water users to have input into how their natural resources are managed at the regional level.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Drysdale".

Andrew J. Drysdale
CEO

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GROUPS COLLECTIVE LTD.

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Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

August 2011

Submission From: Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective Ltd.

1. Introduction

The Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective Ltd. (usually abbreviated to RGC) (<http://www.rgc.org.au/>) represents the interests of the 14 community-based Regional NRM Bodies in Queensland.

These groups are striving for improved resource condition in their areas and, recognising the importance of their natural resource assets and associated values, they might make individual submissions. Any submissions by Regional Bodies are independent of this submission; they are of equal standing and should be considered on their merits.

The RGC believe that legislative reform is essential especially where there are overlapping legislation dealing with the same issues and where efficiencies can be gained by amending existing legislation. The RGC support the majority of recommended amendments in the WOLA Bill.

The RGC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bill.

2. Comments

Water Resource Act 2000

The primary piece of amended legislation which the RGC do not support is in relation to the Water Act 2000 and the removal of the need for the Minister to establish community reference panels for each of the Water Resource Plans. The RGC does not support any action which may result in fewer opportunities for water users and the community to have input into how the natural resource of their region should be managed.

The Bill does not clearly describe how the integrity of a genuine consultation process pertaining to the development or review of the Water Resource Plan will be maintained or preferably enhanced should the Minister exercise their discretionary powers and not appoint a community reference panel.

Contact details – Mr Andrew Drysdale
CEO

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