

Lee G Mc Nicholl
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The Research Director
EAR&C Committee
Parliament House
George St.
Brisbane.

Dear Sir/Madam, I submit the following re the SCL Bill 2011-11-04

I am a grazier and farmer and veterinarian with 40 years experience having graduated with a B.Vet.Sc and a M.Sc. in Rangeland Management in 1970. I have made two previous submissions to D.E.R.M. as part of their process in developing SCL policy to protect the State's cropping potential from destruction by the mining and CSG industries, and welcome the tabling of the relevant Bill.

Work commitments and a limited response time provided by the EAR&E Com. has unfortunately my response less comprehensive than hoped and so I will focus on the following points.

SCL Assessment Criteria.

Schedule 1, Part 2 defines the criteria that validates SCL within the various zones. Criteria 1 relates to the max.permissible slope that applies across the different SCL zones. A 3% max slope relates to the Western Cropping Zone where our operation is located. In all other zones a 5% max. applies. My view is that state of the art sustainable farming and "Landcare" practises are widespread across the Western Cropping Zone on soils that are generally less erosion prone than soils in the other zones where the 5% max rule applies.

I submit that your committee seek DERM's explanation why this anomaly exists and if DERM's cannot justify their recommendations I submit that 5% slope criteria be applied in the Western Cropping Zone.

The issue of max. slope has also been raised by the Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group in a letter to all MPs which I assume you have read. They make the very excellent point that that slopes of 5-8% have been farmed sustainably for many years in their area. The use of zero or minimum till farming with the right crop and laser designed contour systems across their paddocks have allowed them to produce above average yields.

I further submit that your committee consider developing a SCL pathway that allows farmers with $> 5\%$ slope to submit a farm plan which meets acceptable soil erosion criteria. Soil Conservation officers could readily validate or reject such plans. If validated and the farm meets all the other SCL criteria then it should be granted SCL status.

I am available to attend the Public Hearings of the EAR&E Com. If my views are of further interest.

Yours faithfully,

Lee G Mc Nicholl B.V.Sc., M.Sc.