

Submission to Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

Sub# 67

SEQ Catchments Ltd.

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South East Queensland Catchments Ltd (SEQC) is a regional natural resource management body. Membership of the company consists of rural producers, industry, government, Traditional Owners and the wider community.

1. The SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan (SEQ NRM Plan) establishes a collaborative framework to link regional natural resource management planning, investment and activities, to achieve a range of targets. The SEQ NRM Plan is the pre-eminent, non-statutory environment and natural resource management plan for the region. It articulates measurable targets for the condition and extent of environment and natural resources aligned to desired regional outcomes (DROs) and policies in the SEQ Regional Plan.
2. The SEQ Ecosystem Services Framework aims to maintain and enhance social wellbeing and economic prosperity by identifying areas of the landscape where critical good and services are provided from nature. This linkage has been illustrated through maps that provide government and policy makers with land use planning tools. The website provides information on how to incorporate and use the framework: www.ecosystemserveseq.com.au

This submission will view the Bill in terms of support for the targets and principles in these two key community documents.

Comments

SEQC supports a focus on tourism as a way of focusing attention on our valuable natural assets and the role they play in the economy and wellbeing of our community. National Parks house the core assets to achieve the targets in the SEQ NRM Plan and to provide the services important for community wellbeing and economic prosperity. Any activity including the provision and maintenance of infrastructure in these areas should not reduce this capacity.

SEQC has worked with private ventures on private land adjoining National Parks and would continue to support such sustainable ecotourism ventures.

Some of our National Parks are already challenged with weed and pest incursions, inappropriate fire, isolation and fragmentation – any new infrastructure to support ecotourism within national parks, eg buildings, roads, trails, should not increase this pressure. SEQC would support an increase in resources to enhance the management of these valuable natural assets.

Assessment of potential ecotourism activities in National Parks using the targets and mapping tools in the NRM Plan and the Ecosystem Services Framework will enable decisions to be made that don't reduce the role National Parks play in the wellbeing and prosperity of SEQ.