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13 September 2013

The Committee
Health and Community Services
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee

Submission - Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013

Following our review of the proposed *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013 (Bill)*, Seqwater is pleased to be able to provide this submission. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

Seqwater

The Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (trading as Seqwater) is a Queensland Government statutory authority and a registered service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*. Seqwater manages natural and built assets in order to supply potable water to distributor-retailers, councils, industry and irrigation customers in South East Queensland.

Seqwater also provides a range of recreation facilities in the areas adjacent to its dams, making up more than 50 per cent of South East Queensland's green space (excluding land designated for conservation). Seqwater's recreational facilities attract more than two million visitors each year, and are located on both State reserve and freehold land.

Seqwater provides facilities for a variety of water-based and on-shore recreational activities, and strives to balance the ongoing health of its catchments and the quality of the region's water supply. Collectively these water storages provide a 'recreational landscape' of regional significance. Seqwater is also the only major bulk water provider in Australia that manages 'open' catchments, allowing the community to enjoy lakes and catchment land while ensuring a quality bulk drinking water supply for South East Queensland.

Exposure to liability

Seqwater welcomes the Government's stated objectives of increasing access to public lands and achieving red tape reduction. These objectives include, where appropriate, reducing the State's exposure to liability on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services managed lands.

As Seqwater provides extensive areas for recreation in its catchments, Seqwater respectfully submits that the same protection from civil liability extended to the State under the Bill (and to HQPlantations Pty Ltd), is also provided for Seqwater in relation to its catchments.





Proposed amendments

Seqwater requests that the Bill include an amendment to the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, to the effect that a registered service provider (and an official of a registered service provider) is not civilly liable in a proceeding for an act done, or omission made in the management or operation of any areas used for recreational purposes that are owned, controlled or managed by the service provider.

In the alternative, if an amendment would apply to Seqwater specifically (rather than service providers in general), Seqwater proposes that the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007* be amended so that the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (established under that Act) is protected from civil liability as described above.

Please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] if you would like any further details in relation to this submission.

Yours faithfully

Peter Dennis

General Manager Operations – Catchments & Raw Water

