

Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No: 012
Submission By: NRM Regions Queensland
Publication: Making the submission and your name public



NRM
REGIONS
QUEENSLAND

16th December 2025

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee
Inquiry into the Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2025

To whom it may concern,

I write on behalf of NRM Regions Queensland, to provide some views and thoughts on the Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

NRM Regions Queensland (NRMRQ) operates as the peak body for the 12 regional NRM organisations located across Queensland. These are principally community-based organisations, funded primarily from State and Federal Governments, and work in partnership with Traditional Owners, local government, farming groups, Landcare, water utilities and the community, to deliver innovative and science-based solutions to challenges affecting the environment and primary industries. This diverse State-wide team of over 360 staff working out of 27 rural and regional locations includes scientists, GIS practitioners, engineers and support staff, all of whom are experts in research, monitoring, engagement and project management.

Whilst NRMRQ was not consulted directly on this Amendment Bill, we wish to provide the following comments to the Committee based on our role and experience:

- We strongly support amendments to the Environmental Protection Act (including new Section 9A) to clearly identify Queensland's significant environmental values to guide the identification of environmentally relevant activities. Queensland is Australia's most biodiverse state yet the latest Queensland State of the Environment Report (2025) reinforces the threats to this biodiversity by stating that there remains "a worsening trend in the extent and rate of change of remnant vegetation and a further 114 species have become Threatened".
- Further to the point above, we also support the strengthening of powers for the court to order a forfeiture of property to stop an ongoing offence.
- We acknowledge the concern of the tourism industry regarding excessive red tape such as operators having to obtain multiple permits and approval for the same activity, but this must not come at the cost of maintaining the natural and cultural values upon which these same businesses rely upon.
- We wish to express concern with the proposed amendment changes to remove the requirements for operators of small scale mining to pay a financial surety. How will the rehabilitation of these sites be monitored and shared publicly? History would show that a surety provides a stronger incentive for rehabilitation to occur in a timely manner, whilst the effect of slow or rehabilitation to a minimum standard across multiple sites (irrespective of size) can have a significant cumulative negative impact on biodiversity and landscape resilience.





NRM REGIONS QUEENSLAND

Should you wish to discuss these brief comments, please do not hesitate to contact me on [redacted] or [redacted].

Yours sincerely,

Chris Norman
Chief Executive Officer
NRM Regions Queensland

Australian Government

TSRA
www.tsra.gov.au

Healthy
land & water

Cape York
Cape York Regional Ecosystem

DRY TROPICS

desert
channels
GROUP

TERRAIN
NATURE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND
LANDSCAPES

BMRG
Ecosystem Resilience

REEF
CATCHMENTS

fba

Southern Gulf
NRM

www.nrmq.org.au [@NRMRegionsQLD](https://twitter.com/NRMRegionsQLD)

Queensland's regional NRM organisations recognise First Nations people as the Traditional Owners of Country. We pay respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

