

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

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Submission By: Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc

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QUEENSLAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION SUBMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Introduction

The Queensland Beekeepers Association is the peak body for beekeeping in Queensland. It has Branches at Brisbane, Warwick, Toowoomba, Stanley Rivers and Wide Bay. Many of the amateur clubs throughout Queensland are affiliated with the QBA.

Points for consideration

- **Forestry Act 1959** (*Forestry Act*) and the **Recreation Areas Management Act 2006** (*RAM Act*) to deliver a single integrated permission for tourism activities on protected areas, State forests, recreation areas and State marine parks (parks and forests) under the government's 20-year tourism plan, *Destination 2045 - Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future*.

Whilst the QBA is in agreement with multiple uses of our State Forests and has no desire to see tourism curbed, we raise the issue of any permission that may be issued for tourist activities that would result in the loss of apiary sites due to the tourist activities that are approved.

Apiary sites are a crucial part of the ability of our beekeepers to remain as a viable business. Whilst honey production from these sites is important, of greater value is the ability of the beekeeper to build the strength of their hives on these sites either prior to a pollination event or to rebuild them after a pollination event.

With the advent of the Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), now endemic in Queensland and eventually spreading throughout the whole State, many farmers will now find that their crops, which have enjoyed pollination by feral honey bees or bees from hives that are not managed, will no longer be available to pollinate their crops as the Varroa mite will kill these hives. It will now be up to our members to supply hives for pollination so a financially viable crop can be produced. It is estimated that one in three mouthfuls of food that we eat relies on honeybees for pollination.

- *Clearly identifying Queensland's significant environmental values to guide the identification of ERAs and the administration of the EP Act, which will be included in a schedule to the EP Regulation.*

Without knowing the details of this proposal, there is the possibility that any activities that are approved could affect current apiary sites in National Parks for which our beekeepers have permits.

Above, we have outlined the importance of apiary sites on State Forests to beekeepers, and the same narrative applies here for National Parks.

So, any loss of sites due to other activities would not only be detrimental to our members but also to the wider agricultural industry.

Alex Macleanan
Secretary
Queensland Beekeepers Association
15 December 2025