



# the STOCK ROUTES COALITION

44 Emu Creek Road Crows Nest Qld 4355



Chinchilla FNC



CWC Armidale



Droving and Stock Routes Assn



North Burnett



NPAQ



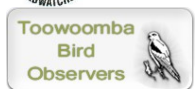
Qld Naturalists



South West NRM Ltd



Tamborine Mt NHA



AEDA



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## Submission to Land Tenure Inquiry

3 August 2012

At the public briefing held by the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee on Wednesday, 11 July 2012, no mention was made of the Queensland Stock Route Network of Stock Routes and Reserves (SRN).

This is surprising for a number of reasons:

- ⑤ the SRN comprises some 2% of the land area in Queensland
- ⑤ the large amount of work done by Government, industry and conservation groups to reach consensus on the proposed Stock Route Network Management Bill 2011
- ⑤ the direct relevance of the values of the SRN to the Terms of Reference of the enquiry

## Values of the Stock Route Network

- ⑤ They provide a valuable service to travelling stock, as well as an emergency drought refuge. With steeply rising fuel prices their use is likely to increase again.
- ⑤ The light and intermittent grazing by travelling stock has ensured that the native vegetation is mostly in reasonable condition and that reservoirs of native seed persist. Biodiversity values have thus been conserved.
- ⑤ Many stock routes cross cleared agricultural and pastoral landscapes and provide habitat for flora and fauna lost from the surrounding areas. The only surviving examples of some Regional Ecosystems are on stock routes.
- ⑤ In many places they are the only source of connectivity in the landscape, providing corridors for the movement of wildlife and plants.
- ⑤ Stock routes incorporate a variety of local landforms, and vegetation types. Stock routes often contain fertile soils and much greater biodiversity than adjoining private grazed or cropped land.
- ⑤ Some flora and fauna are likely to be adversely affected by climate change. Stock routes provide east-west and north-south corridors for these species west of the Dividing Range.
- ⑤ The iconic Long Paddock also has cultural values associated with indigenous trade routes and sites of archaeological significance. Both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples have family and personal connections to certain stock routes. Stock routes have links with exploration and settlement.

## Relevance to land tenure

The Stock Route Network must be managed to protect all of these values, some of which have relevance to issues noted in the public briefing. For example, they provide sites for active recreation including camping, fishing, bushwalking, 4 wheel driving, birdwatching and other forms of ecotourism.

While there are sections with greater value than others for stock movement, biodiversity, etc., the network needs to be seen as a single entity whose sum is greater than its parts. It provides a unique network of corridors which facilitate the movement of native animals and plants. This has special significance for the survival of species under climate change.

All of the Stock Route Network should be retained in state ownership to facilitate control of compliance with management rules, and to simplify increased use by travelling stock in the future if the prediction of peak oil and escalation of road transport costs eventuates.

If parts of the Stock Route Network not used for their primary purpose of travelling stock are leased for grazing, this should follow the principle of cell grazing (intermittent grazing) to ensure sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Grahame Rogers, Secretary..