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SOIL SCIENCE AUSTRALIA

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Queensland Branch
PO Box 633
Indooroopilly Centre
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State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE: SUBMISSION ON REGIONAL PLANNING INTERESTS BILL 2013

The Queensland Branch of Soil Science Australia welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013*. The members have considered the Bill and provide the following comments for consideration.

Section of the Bill	Comments
Introduction	The Regional Plans unduly focus on resource activities and appear to be inconsistent with planning schemes of local government.
Introduction	The provision of an assessment framework to manage the impact of resource activities has merit, but the lack of framework makes any particular comments on its validity impossible.
Purpose	While the purpose stated has merit, its preoccupation with resources industries is unfortunate.
Area of Regional Interests	This appears to be a recasting of Agricultural Precincts. The precinct concept is supported by the Branch.
Regional Interests Authority	Is essentially a development approval.
Regional interests conditions paramount	This appears to relate to the over-riding of local government powers under a broad range of conditions, which could have negative impacts on the wishes of difference communities.

The Explanatory Notes to the Bill discuss alternative policy outcomes, with regards to the option of coordinating assessment of resource activities through the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. This would appear to be the most appropriate option in reduction of red-tape, simplification and integration are the outcomes sought.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill. If you require any further information please contact the Queensland Branch via email at qld@soilscienceaustralia.org.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Brough
President – Soil Science Australia (Queensland Branch)