



Queensland
Conservation

Supplementary submission No. 081
25 February 2014
11.1.14

**PROTECT
CONSERVE
SUSTAIN**

The Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

25 February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Calls for Supplementary Submissions to the Qld Parliamentary Inquiry into the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013

Queensland Conservation (QCC) would draw the Committee's attention to the submissions received from many of our member organisations and the QLD Environment Defenders Office. We would like to provide some supplementary comments.

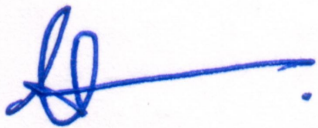
QCC is concerned that the proposed Regional Planning Interests legislation is being rushed. We note that important details, which would normally be included in associated policies and regulations are incomplete and unavailable for public comment. This makes it difficult to assess the legislation, without knowing the detail. On this point alone we would urge the committee to withdraw the bill until adequate information was available for public scrutiny.

Additionally, QCC would like to draw the Committees attention to a number of other concerns.

- The bill fails to prohibit mining and other threatening activities and developments from ecologically sensitive areas, including Strategic Environmental Areas

- The bill does not explicitly protect Wild River High Preservation Areas, Special Floodplain Management Areas and World Heritage standard landscapes
- The bill should apply the Precautionary Principle to important ecological areas and habitat, rather than assuming co-existence is possible.
- The bill does not allow for third party appeals on decisions and assessments or on amendments to Environmental Authorities
- The bill provides too much discretionary power to the Coordinator General to allow mining in Strategic Environmental Areas

In conclusion we urge the withdrawal of the legislation in its current form and the strengthening of protections for Strategic Environment Areas and other areas of ecological value.



Toby Hutcheon
Executive Director