



**Supplementary Submission regarding the  
Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013  
Submitted by Friends of Felton  
February 2014**

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to evidence presented at the public hearings. We would like to comment specifically on comments made to the inquiry by the Deputy Premier on 14<sup>th</sup> February in Brisbane.

The notion of coexistence is one of the basic building blocks of this legislation, yet a definition is not provided in the draft bill. The Deputy Premier defined it in these terms to the committee:

*‘The best example of co-existence is when a landholder and a company both voluntarily agree. That is co-existence.’*

This definition only considers the issue of compensation. It excludes all consideration of the long term protection of farmland, the environment, and the social impacts of development, and therefore contradicts the intent of the draft bill, namely

*A Bill for an Act to manage the impact of resource activities and other regulated activities on areas of the State that contribute, or are likely to contribute, to Queensland’s economic, social and environmental prosperity.*

The very title of the draft bill, the “Regional Planning Interests Bill” suggests that this is about PROTECTING REGIONAL INTERESTS. It is very dangerous to assume individual voluntary agreements between landholders and a company will satisfy regional interests.

The Deputy Premier also made the following comments with regard to the bill’s relationship to the planning process:

*‘The point I want to make ...is that the elements of that planning process are not new. They are exactly the same as the planning process that has been in place for generations across urban areas.’*

*‘This has been put together as a planning instrument and it uses tried and true planning concepts.’*

The conventional planning process takes account of the ‘triple bottom line’ of economic, environmental, and social impacts. This draft bill is heavily focused on short-term economic considerations, with scant regard to environmental and social impacts. As such, it is extremely unbalanced and places at risk the long-term future of regional Queensland.

Queries can be emailed to Mrs Vicki Green, President, Friends of Felton

