



12 October 2012

State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000

[sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au)

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: The Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012**

Noosa Biosphere is Queensland's first UNESCO Biosphere promoting harmony between people and nature through education, conservation and sustainable activities. Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. As places that seek to reconcile conservation of biological and cultural diversity and economic and social development through partnerships between people and nature, they are ideal to test and demonstrate innovative approaches to sustainable development from local to international scales.

As such, our organisation promotes sustainable interaction between the community and the environment.

In respect to "The Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012" we fear that some of the proposed amendments will have an adverse effect on the interaction between community and environment by muting the communities' voice through the threat of financial damages. In particular **Clause 61** which proposes changes to the current cost rules be deleted. Proposed changes mean that bonafide stakeholders would be hesitant to appeal development decisions without significant financial backing as they will fear the possibility of having to pay all costs on both sides. Without an appropriate voice, the power of community engagement is lost which, in our experience, leads to misunderstandings and hostility. In our opinion such conflicts cannot help with restoring the economy or getting Queensland back on track.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sue Davis,  
Noosa Biosphere Limited - CHAIR

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