



2nd April 2013

The Secretary
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Submission No. 7



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re : *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013*

Introduction

CANEGROWERS Australia represents around 80% of Australia's sugarcane growers. CANEGROWERS is a highly successful lobby, representation and services group, with 19 offices across Queensland and New South Wales. The national office is in Brisbane. At a local level our office represents approximately 100 growers who supply cane to the Maryborough Sugar Factory.

Expansion of local industry

The Maryborough sugar industry has for some time been attempting to increase the production of cane from the local area. We are currently producing around 650,000 tonnes of cane on an annual basis which is far below the milling capacity of the sugar mill of around 900,000 tonnes. The district produced a strategic plan in an effort to identify factors which were limiting production. One of the major factors highlighted was the availability of suitable agriculture land much of which is impacted by the current Vegetation Management Act.

General

We have read the details contained in the *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013* and advise that we fully support the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act.

The changes will allow expansion of the local sugar industry mainly through the clearing of regrowth on land that had previously been cleared but not brought into active production.

This clearing can be carried out without having major impacts on the local environment and enable the area to reach its full potential with an economically and environmental sustainable sugar industry.

We congratulate the State Government on having the initiative to table this amendment bill and wish them every success in having it accepted and passed through the legislative process.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T H Turner', written in a cursive style.

T H Turner
Manager