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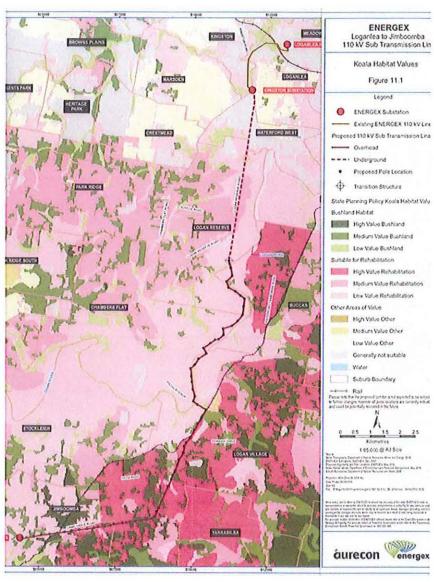
Submission to: State Development Infrastructure & Industry Committee Re: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT BILL 2013 (QLD)

The government's commitment to growing a four pillar economy based on construction, resources, agriculture and tourism development is recognised. However we are concerned that while the proposed amendments maintain protections for native vegetation, by omission the amendments exclude maintaining similar protections for high value regrowth vegetation.

Over the past 4 years our community has had the experience of trying to protect our environment from another high voltage power line through the Logan River Bio-Regional corridor, which in this case actually requires a 40 metre cleared easement along the Logan River with 5 crossings within 6kms then continuing through recognised high value koala habitat [as shown in the Energex FIAR Fig 11.1 map opposite]

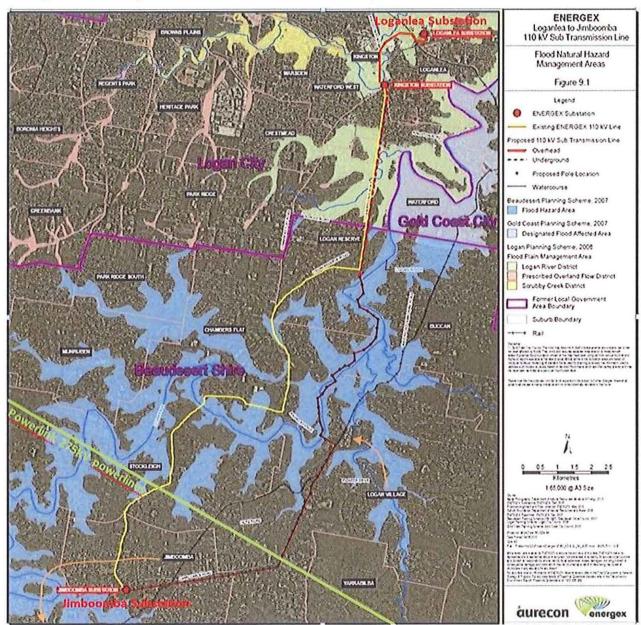
Current legislation, in particular SPA (2009) and VMA (1999) has to-date, required assessment of the impacts of the power line and the 40 metre cleared easement current vegetation requires provision of offsets for cleared vegetation.

So where there are alternatives, these offsets can be used to protect and enhance other vegetation, such as riparian vegetation along the Logan River and other key habitat refuges for koalas and other native flora and fauna in our area.



Our concern, is that the proposed Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013 (Qld) will remove recognition of re-growth vegetation as valuable habitat and avoid environmental impact assessment and offsets for provision of infrastructure, for re-growth vegetation in our area.

Our further concern is that other proposed Amendments, including changing the lot size trigger from 2ha to 5ha for Rural Residential properties, will enable unchecked clearing of vegetation on many properties. Which when combined with existing high voltage powerline easements [shown in Energex FIAR Fig 9.1 below], plus the expected road widenings and planned urban development, in areas such as the Yarrabilba UDA, will collectively create accumulated impacts that will substantially reduce remaining habitat for flora and fauna in the Logan River Bio-Regional corridor and further undermine Logan River water quality.



Major high voltage powerline easements in relation to the Logan River Flood Hazard Zone

Careful planning, supported by good science is needed to strike a truely sustainable balance between development and protection of vulnerable species habitat. Where this can be achieved with supporting legislation that protects our environment, we believe there will be opportunities for tourism development, particularly in and around the Logan River and the 150 year old Logan Village historical precinct.

Yours sincerely

Paul Casbolt

for the VETO Committee