



Submission No. 45



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10 April, 2013

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

By Email: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee,

**Powerlink Submissions
Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013**

This submission is made on behalf of Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited trading as Powerlink Queensland (**Powerlink**).

Powerlink is a government owned corporation that owns, operates, develops and maintains Queensland's high voltage electricity transmission network, which transports electricity in bulk from power generators to the regional distribution networks (owned by Energex, Ergon Energy and Essential Energy) which then supply around two million electricity customers.

Powerlink supports the objectives of the *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013 (the Bill)* to reduce red tape and regulatory burden, whilst also maintaining protection and management of Queensland's native vegetation resources.

As an electricity entity with vegetation clearing maintenance obligations under the *Electricity Act 1994* and *Electrical Safety Act 2002* and as a provider of essential community infrastructure, Powerlink is keen to ensure any changes proposed to the Vegetation Management Framework do not unnecessarily compromise the efficient development of community infrastructure or maintenance to existing infrastructure.

Currently, Powerlink carries out clearing of native vegetation without the need to obtain development approval in accordance with relevant exemptions under Schedule 24 of the *Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 (SPR)*. Therefore Powerlink is supportive of the proposal for the development of self assessable codes provided existing exemptions under the Vegetation Management Framework as they apply to Powerlink are retained.

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Powerlink Queensland is the registered business name of the
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The proposed self-assessable vegetation clearing code for relevant infrastructure activities would apply Powerlink activities. Powerlink requests the opportunity to participate in the development of the code for relevant infrastructure activities.

Powerlink looks forward to further involvement in the development of any proposed legislative changes and associated codes.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Martin
Manager Environment Strategies

