



10 April 2013

Our REF: Q-LNG01-15-AT-0536

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

BY EMAIL: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au



Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on the Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013

Origin Energy Resources Limited (Origin) is pleased to take the opportunity to provide a submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee in regards to the Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013.

Origin supports the objectives of the bill in that the proposed amendments will reduce red tape and unnecessary duplication of regulation.

Origin specifically supports the proposed legislation changes to provide a single regulated Vegetation Map to avoid confusion and duplication of map suites.

Origin, also supports in principle, the proposed inclusion of the Vegetation management wetlands map and Vegetation management watercourse map in the legislation as this could remove the confusion and duplication associated with the numerous wetland and watercourse maps, databases and definitions held by government. Origin however has serious concerns that the maps may be certified on the basis of;

- existing government mapping that is erroneous;
- aerial/satellite imagery with no ground-truthing;
- uncertainty over the interpretation of environmental values applicable to wetland mapping; and
- this mapping may include "wetland" Regional Ecosystems where the RE's are not always associated with wetlands.

Should this occur the Wetlands and Watercourse mapping will regulate areas that do not protect the specific biodiversity associated with watercourses and wetlands and therefore this amendment would be contrary to the objectives of the bill in that, it could restrict developments activities without any ecological basis.

This proposal, without a regulatory mechanism for the validation and amendment of the wetland and watercourse maps could result in a regulated map containing areas without wetland or watercourse attributes that cannot be easily changed. This would lead to perverse outcomes such as the restriction of developments that meet all other principles of sustainable development.

Origin therefore requests that the Bill include a mechanism to define watercourses and wetlands on the basis of significant water dependant species and ecosystems or abiotic features that must occur for the areas to be included on the mapping. We also request that the legislation includes a amendment mechanism based on site specific assessment. This

mechanism would be consistent with the frameworks established for Regional Ecosystems through the PMAV process or, the mechanisms within the Vegetation management codes to allow activities in areas incorrectly mapped as Essential habitat which is reliant upon specific ecological and abiotic characteristics.

Origin would be happy to provide additional detailed information to the committee on the issues raised above. Origin would also like to thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the bill.

Should you wish to discuss these further, please contact Brett Campbell via email on brett.campbell@originenergy.com.au or the undersigned.

Yours faithfully



PER
Rob Ullly

