



10 April 2013

To the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee,

**Re: *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013***

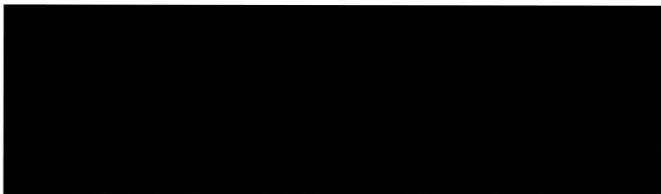
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendments to Queensland's vegetation management legislative framework. I have a number of concerns with the proposed amendments and the process undertaken to develop the Bill. Following is a summary of these concerns and questions for the Committee's consideration.

- It is not clear why the Bill has been referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee as opposed to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee. I believe the latter would be more appropriate and, as such, have forwarded this submission to the Chair and Deputy Chair of that Committee.
- How can the Committee adequately assess the impacts of the Bill without a Regulatory Impact Statement and within the reduced period of two months (rather than the possible six months)?
- What is the justification for the limited, or indeed complete lack of, public consultation on the Bill given the potential significant environmental, social and economic implications?
- The Bill will introduce an expansion to the current reasons for which clearing permits can be applied for, likely resulting in an increase in the number of applications received. What is the expected and potential loss of vegetation? What is the estimated cost to the government in administering the Bill?
- The mapping arrangements do not provide for any future review or expansion of mapped remnant vegetation. This will result in the continual erosion of the current extent of remnant vegetation, putting vegetation communities under increasing pressure and resulting in possible extinction of communities. The Bill does not achieve the purpose of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

In closing, I have serious concerns about the extent of vegetation that may be cleared as a result of the proposed changes to Queensland's vegetation management framework. I am also deeply concerned about the apparent disregard of parliamentary and public consultation processes in the development of this Bill. I do not support the *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013* and ask for a thorough analysis of the potential impacts of this proposed legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Michelle Sauter



Copied to:

Mr Ian Rickuss MP – For your consideration as Chair of Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

Ms Jackie Trad MP – For your consideration as Deputy Chair of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee and Shadow Minister for Environment.

Ms Anastacia Palaszuk MP – For your consideration as the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP – For your consideration as the Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

Mr Andrew Bartlett – For your information as the Convenor of the Queensland Greens.

Senator Larissa Waters – For your information as the Australian Greens Senator for Queensland.

Mr Tony Burke MP – For your information as the Federal Minister for Environment.