

Cedar Hill

Flowers and Foliage

Winner 1999 & 2000 Sunshine Coast Environment Council Clean Industry Initiative Award
Winner 1997, 1999 & 2000 Sunshine Coast Exporter of the Year Award
Winner 2001 Queensland Primary Industries Environment Award
Winner 2001 Sunshine Coast Exporter Hall of Fame Award
Winner 2001 Queensland Premier's Agribusiness Export Award

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16th March 2022

Committee Secretary
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

To the Committee Chair,

Re: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

We are pleased to see the government deliver on their commitment to the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) through the provision of a 20-year extension of their access to former State forests which have been transferred to the protected areas estate. We support the introduction of new Section 36A and S 219 to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to facilitate this commitment. We are also supportive of the changes to increase the capacity of departmental officers to respond to misconduct within Queensland's protected area estate.

There is a significant disparity in the legislation between permits for different forest users when considering that apiary permits may be granted for up to 5 years, resource permits for scientific or educational purposes for up to 3 years, commercial activity permits for up to 3 years and stock grazing permits for up to 10 years.

We would like to propose an amendment to the below legislation to subsection 71BC(1)(C) to extend the term for another resource permit from 1 year to 5 years.

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017

71BC Maximum terms for permits and authorities for taking etc. cultural or natural resources

(1) The maximum term for each of the following resources permits for a protected area is as follows—

(a) a resources permit granted for a scientific purpose—3 years;

(b) a resources permit granted for an educational purpose—3 years;

(c) another resources permit—1 year. – **Increase to 5 years**

(2) The maximum term for an apiary permit for a protected area is 5 years.

(3) The maximum term for an Aboriginal tradition authority, or an Island custom authority, for a protected area is 1 year.

If sub section 71BC(1)(C) were changed to allow the maximum time limit for another resources permit to 5 years it would provide the ability for the Chief Executive to issue CHFF with a 5 year Resources Permit affording greater confidence in the continuation of our access to one of our most vital resources.

The Cedar Hill Corporate Group (CHCG) is a Queensland family-owned group of horticultural companies based in Woombye on the Sunshine Coast. CHCG employs over 100 people in regional Queensland, contributes millions of dollars to local economies and towards Queensland's agricultural exports. Cedar Hill Flowers and Foliage Pty Ltd (CHFF) are Australia's largest exporter of native foliage's to international flower markets. For over thirty years we have been accessing State and private lands within Queensland for the sustainable collection of plant parts. Our foliage's are unique to Australia and shipped all around the world. CHFF entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Cultural Heritage Agreement with the Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC in 2017. These agreements provide both financial returns, recognition of indigenous rights and confidence for the Jinibara People that any sacred sites or artefacts will be treated in accordance with traditional customs.

CHFF share similarities with the QBA in our access to former State forests which have now been transferred or are scheduled to be transferred to the protected area estate in the near future. We currently access Mapleton National Park - Special Management Area (Controlled Action) for the purpose of sustainably collecting plant parts from the Umbrella fern species *Sticherus flabellatus*. Upon the expiry of our Previous Use Authority granted under Section 36 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 on the 31st of October 2024 we will be accessing these areas solely through a Resource Permit For Taking Plant Parts, the maximum term that this permit can be granted for is 1 year. The prospect of moving to a 1 year permit for access to one of our most important resources is a significant disincentive for further business investment and diminishes our ability to attract long term staff.

CHFF support the Queensland governments long term target of increasing protected area to 17% of the states land mass. We believe that this is achievable while still allowing for existing users and ensuring long term secure jobs in regional communities. Thank you for providing the opportunity for Cedar Hill Flowers and Foliage (CHFF) to submit comments on the proposed changes to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 ("the Bill").

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Irwin', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Mark Irwin
Director/CEO