



17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Australian Melon Association Inc

Email: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Committee Secretary  
State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

via: [sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

**Re: Submission from Melons Australia in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.**

Melons Australia is the peak industry body which represents approximately 200 melon growers and the broader supply chain across the country. I am writing to provide Melons Australia's submission of support for the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

As we understand this Bill, which is before the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, will extend the current access arrangements until 31 December 2044, providing an additional 20-years of access to critical National Park apiary sites for the honey bee industry.

Access to native forests is key to the survival of the Queensland honey bee industry and beekeeping colleagues in southern states. Beekeeping access arrangements to the rich and diverse floral resources found in National Parks are also key to surety for stakeholders in industry, the future of Australian farming families, the future of food production and ultimately food security for all Australians.

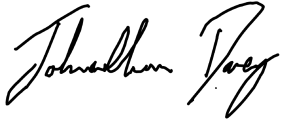
Our Australian melon growers rely upon access to strong healthy hives and bees for pollination of crops, without access to healthy bees there are significant ramifications for the \$52+ million melon industry in Queensland. Without this extension of access being granted there are impacts that will be realised to our future growth plans and opportunities for employment.

This opportunity is extremely critical for the bee keepers and our horticulture industry at present due to news of the recent flooding across South East Queensland and New South Wales resulting in the loss of in excess of 5,000 bee hives and millions of bees. Support for their recovery is going to be critical to our ongoing ability to produce fresh fruit for Australian consumers.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission on behalf of Melons Australia, our Management Committee and members. The industries access to a healthy, and sustainable bee population for the pollination of crops is so important for our industry.

If you would like to discuss any of this submission or have any further questions of clarification, please feel free to contact me on [REDACTED] or via [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnathon Davey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Johnathon Davey  
Executive Officer - Melons Australia