



87 Ford St  
Beechworth, VIC 3747

P [REDACTED]  
W [www.beechworthhoney.com.au](http://www.beechworthhoney.com.au)  
E [REDACTED]

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To State Development and Regional Industries Committee [dric@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:dric@parliament.qld.gov.au)

**Re: Support for Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022**

Beechworth Honey Group is Australia's largest family owned specialist 100% Australian honey group. We are passionate supporters of Australian beekeepers and leaders in Australian honey quality, trust and integrity. Our business only sources and uses 100% Australian honey and many of our suppliers are based in Queensland. It is also common for our suppliers from other states to travel to Queensland to access floral resources as a result of climate challenges such as fires, droughts and floods.

Australian beekeepers are core to having grown Beechworth Honey as an iconic 100% Australian honey brand and company. Beechworth Honey is conscious that beekeepers across Australia are facing many complex, cumulative and interrelated threats and challenges. One of the largest challenges faced by beekeepers is access to secure floral resources to maintain strong and healthy bee colonies which underpin honey production, pollination services and food security.

Strong competition from low priced imported honey is also impacting the viability of Australian beekeepers with most of the honey packers now generating large profits from low priced imported honey as a critical part of their business models. Sadly the fact that it is possible for honey packers to exist without Australian beekeepers places the production sector of our industry at a critical cross road. This increases the need for resource certainty and access to native floral resources like never before.

We believe that it is imperative that the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 is passed at this time and are therefore strong supporters of this important legislation. Beechworth Honey are strong supporters of the hard work, leadership and advocacy provided by the Queensland Beekeepers Association in working to bring change needed through advocating for this bill.

We cannot stress strongly enough the strategic importance of honeybees as a keystone species underpinning two thirds of Australia's agricultural production and Australia's food security. Our membership, guidance and leadership within the National Farmers Federation and Australian Food and Grocery Council sees both these industries now recognising the importance of honeybees to food security and the importance of their industries. We note their support for this bill also and see this as significant endorsement of the fact that this bill should be passed into legislation.

We stand ready to supply any additional details required should this be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Jodie Goldsworthy - Director