



17 March 2022

Queensland Parliament State Development and Regional
Industries Committee

Via email: sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au

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3 Glenarm Rd

Glen Iris VIC 3146

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www.ausveg.com.au

RE: Letter of Support – Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

To whom it may concern,

AUSVEG is the prescribed peak industry body for the Australian vegetable and potato industries and is the leading horticultural body representing Australian growers. AUSVEG is run by growers, for growers, and is committed to securing a productive and profitable future for Australia's vegetable and potato growers.

Queensland is a major producer of vegetables, accounting for over 32 per cent of production area, over 860 businesses that employ tens of thousands of workers, and generating over \$1 billion in value in 2019/20. Many of Australia's vegetable crops rely on pollination, which makes apiarists and their bees vital for the ongoing success of the vegetable industry, as well as the broader horticulture sector.

Vegetable growers in Queensland have experienced significant challenges and disruptions over recent years, including unprecedented hardships and challenges over the last two years due to COVID-19, supply chain disruptions, and input cost rises. On top of this, the recent floods have devastated many growing businesses and will impact the local industry for years due to the damage to crops and infrastructure, loss of topsoil, and damage to machinery.

AUSVEG supports initiatives and policies that supports vegetable growers to improve their productivity and competitiveness. As such, we support the calls from the Queensland Beekeepers' Association to seek changes to a sunset clause within the Nature Conservation Act of 1992 that would cease beekeepers access arrangements to Queensland National Park apiary sites on 31 December 2024.

We understand that, due in part to the efforts of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, the Queensland Government has provided an election commitment to industry that would introduce into Parliament legislative amendments to grant a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on national parks until 31 December 2044.

Exclusion from National Park apiary sites would be detrimental to the future of beekeeping in Queensland, which would impact those whose livelihoods depend on the availability of strong healthy Queensland bees, including many of our members, as well as those who support the broader agriculture industry through the packing of premium Australian honey.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on [REDACTED], or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Tyson Cattle

Tyson Cattle
AUSVEG
Acting Chief Executive Officer