



# The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

## Submission from the Australian Macadamia Society

March 2022

### Introduction

The Australian macadamia industry is worth around \$300 million. Around 75% of the crop is exported and macadamias are Queensland's most valuable horticultural export. Macadamias are grown in Queensland from the Atherton Tablelands in north Queensland to the Glasshouse Mountains in SE Queensland.

The Australian Macadamia Society (AMS) is the only representative body for the industry. There are no state bodies and the AMS covers the entire supply chain including input suppliers, researchers, consultants, growers, processors, marketers and exporters. Membership is estimated to represent over 80% of commercial growers and over 90% of production.

The Australian macadamia industry is undergoing the fastest growth in its history with around 4,000 ha a year being planted, mostly in Queensland. Based on this growth and plantings over the last 5 years, we anticipate the production of macadamias in Queensland to double within the next decade. This could add a further \$150 million to the Queensland economy.

### Response

The AMS is committed to ensuring all the requisite resources and regulatory conditions are in place to ensure the long term future success and sustainability of the Queensland horticultural sector.

One keystone resource essential to the continued success and expansion of the Queensland Macadamia industry, currently worth approximately \$180 million to the state economy and responsible for over 1,500 jobs in across the regions, is a thriving honey bee industry able

to provide pollination services.

Continued access to Queensland National Park apiary sites is a core regulatory condition to secure the future of both the Queensland honey bee and macadamia industry.

The Queensland Beekeepers Association estimates that in 2020 demand for managed honey bee colonies providing pollination services to some of the states key growing regions and crops amounts to some 67,000 hives.

Access to National Park apiary sites for these same hives provides the ideal nutritional needs to support our growing industry, whilst providing ideal short term stays for our beekeepers to breed strong healthy bees capable of producing world class honey, and providing critical pollination services to the growing Queensland macadamia industry.

The AMS supports the Bill and the extension of 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.



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