



17 March 2022

Committee Secretary  
State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au  
To whom it may concern,

**Re. Support for the introduction of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.**

The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) would like to indicate their support for the above amendment.

The Almond industry has recently expanded to over 58,500 hectares in 2021. The industry continues to supersede annual production with 124,439 tonnes produced in 2021/22 and forecast for 2025 predicted to exceed 187,000 tonnes. The value of the almond industry to the Australian economy was recently assessed by consulting firm RMCG based on 2019/20 figures at 0.1% of the nation's GDP.

The industry is heavily reliant on commercial beehives to pollinate more than 17 million almond trees across Australia. The almond industry estimates 275,000 hives were required to pollinate almond blossom in 2021 and is likely to need a further 60,000 beehives as recently planted trees mature.

Due to the size of many almond orchards, the pollination services of multiple beekeepers have been called upon to have sufficient hives on site during bloom. In recent years apiarists from Southern Queensland have expanded their honeybee businesses and traveled to Victoria, NSW and South Australia to participate in the almond orchard pollination season to set the crop. This has provided a viable supplementary income for many Queensland apiarists traditionally reliant on honey sales.

The Australian almond industry supports the continued access to Queensland's native forests and their rich and diverse floral resources providing the nutritional needs for bees to be capable of providing critical pollination services to the growing Almond industry. The ongoing competitiveness of the Australian almond industry, and the economic wellbeing of the producing regions and apiarists alike depends on abundant and healthy bees. As an industry we believe this bill will help secure both the future of beekeeping in Queensland and the future of food security in Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Jackson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Jackson  
CEO – Almond Board of Australia