



Environmental
Defenders Office



Committee Secretary

Transport and Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: trc@parliament.qld.gov.au

31 March, 2022

RE: Submission on Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to make a public submission on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

We write jointly to raise concern with respect to one clause in the Bill in particular. We have not had capacity to revise the Bill in detail, and so our submission should not be taken as supporting any other elements of this Bill.

We are concerned by one component of the Bill and strongly suggest that an alternative solution be found to address the issue this component is attempting to address. Specifically, the proposal to certify the Regional Ecosystem Description Database (**REDD**) as providing the regional ecosystem conservation status, rather than having the regional ecosystems status listed in the *Vegetation Management Regulations 2012* (Qld).

We believe this change will unnecessarily reduce transparency and rigour. Under the current process, changes to the regulations are tabled in Parliament which would allow for the provision of a disallowance motion in the event that grasslands were inappropriately changed from regulated to exempt. However, under the new proposed process, such a change would not pass through Parliament and would, therefore, not be subject to the rigorous checks and balances currently in place.

Additionally, since the change would pass through silently with an annual data release, it would be possible for the public to not be aware of the change for several years until a technical expert stumbled across it.

We believe this is an unacceptable scaling back of transparency and accountability around an important regulatory matter of listing the conservation status of regional ecosystems, which flows through to how the regulations impact clearing of those ecosystems. We strongly recommend that



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this aspect of the proposal be amended so that regional ecosystems cannot change to being unregulated without Parliamentary oversight.

Thank you for your consideration. Our contact details are listed below.

Kind Regards,

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