



Chamber of Commerce  
& Industry Queensland

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Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
Cnr George and Alice Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee Member

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland wishes to offer its support to the Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

The Queensland business community is aware it has a social responsibility to minimise the impacts its activities have on the environment and is committed to protecting Queensland's natural heritage. However environmental management and related regulation consistently arises as a key issue for Queensland businesses.

In particular the overall complexity of environmental regulation and the high cost of environmental compliance are among the top concerns for businesses who over the past three years have been subject to increasing levels of "greentape" and environmental levies, fees and charges.

This State Government has flagged ensuring a balance between environmental outcomes and business sustainability as a high priority. In the Chamber's view this requires a best practice approach to regulation that includes a realistic account of the costs and impacts for business and adequate level of consultation and engagement with the business community.

Environmental protection and management should not come at the expense or limitation of business growth and is not a cost that should be born solely by the business community. The State Government must ensure state-based environmental protection measures are warranted and achieve their aims at the lowest cost to the Queensland community.

CCIQ believes there is a significant degree of duplication across the various areas of environmental policy and that businesses are being forced to undertake inefficient management planning; apply for too many licences and permits; and pay exorbitant fees, levies and charges. Additionally businesses have to comply with various operational policies, guidelines and standards across many environmental policy areas including emissions, solid waste, liquid waste and land use.

For these reasons the Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 is a welcomed commencement point and very much supported by CCIQ and the Queensland business community.

CCIQ highlights however that the outcomes of this initial phase of reductions, whilst merited, only derive benefit for a small targeted section of the business community and do not provide broad-based returns.

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Accordingly the State Government must continue the good progress achieved under the Greentape Reduction project and further commit to the ongoing review and simplification across all areas of environmental regulation.

CCIQ encourages the Greentape Reduction project to consider areas such as liquid commercial waste; ERA licences and environmental permits; and the many areas of environmental regulation that are duplicative or that are inconsistent with other agency regulation. This will substantially extend the benefit of the Greentape Reduction initiative to the broader business community.

Those involved in the development of this Bill should be commended for this initial progress and widely supported for a broader Greentape Reduction program moving forward.

Yours sincerely



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