



# Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *ERP/BZ – TF/12/6772 – DOC/12/72462*

**19 APR 2012**

Ms Sophie Dunstone  
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Environment and Communications  
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Dear Ms Dunstone

Thank you for your email of 27 March 2012 addressed to the former Premier inviting the Queensland State Government to make a submission on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development) Bill 2012 (the Bill).

The Queensland Government's comments on the Bill are as follows:

1. The Bill establishes arrangements so that an appropriate Minister from the State can seek advice from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC) regarding a development proposal (s.505D). However, in Queensland it is either the Chief Executive under the *Environment Protection Act* or the Coordinator-General who is responsible for assessing these proposals. These entities should, therefore, be the ones requesting the IESC's advice on behalf of the State. The Bill should cater for these scenarios.
2. Membership of the Committee (s.505C) does not include the National Partnership Agreement's requirement for the Minister to consult with the states regarding membership (cl:14(d)). This aspect of the National Partnership Agreement should be acknowledged in the Bill.
3. The functions of the IESC outlined in the Bill include (f) to publish information relating to the development of standards for protecting water resources from the impacts of coal seam gas development and large coal mining development. It is not clear where this function originates from as it is not identified in either the National Partnership Agreement objectives or the Terms of Reference for the Interim Committee. Since Queensland and other states have established standards, the purpose of this duplication and overlap is questionable. This function should be removed.

Should you require further information or clarification on these comments, please contact Mr Adrian Jeffreys, Executive Director, Environment and Resources Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet,

Yours sincerely

 CAMPBELL NEWMAN