

24 June 2026

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

QCC submission on the State Development and Public Works (Critical Minerals) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Dear Committee Members,

I am making this submission on behalf of the Queensland Conservation Council, the leading independent voice for the environment in Queensland and the peak body for Queensland's environmental movement, representing more than 50 community environment groups and organisations across the state.

If made into law, this Bill would have significant impacts on conservationists, landholders, and others who seek to protect their land and local ecosystems from development.

I am particularly concerned that the Bill:

- Offers broad discretion and lack of accountability to declare a development a State strategic project
- Grants broad-reaching and unjustified powers, with inadequate or unclear limits, to exclude or modify other legislation as applied to State strategic projects
- Lowers threshold requirements to take land for State strategic projects
- Allows increased proponent access to, and use of, land

Allowing developments to circumvent environmental assessments and cancel out or modify the application of existing laws would be disastrous for Queensland's precious ecosystems and wildlife habitats.

Assessments and nature protection laws exist as checks and balances on projects that impact our natural and cultural heritage. Circumventing these will incentivise considering only the economic benefits of developments, and without the benefit of any insights or feedback that assessments may provide.

The Queensland Conservation Council acknowledges that we meet and work across the many lands of Queensland. We wish to pay respect to their Elders - past and present - and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play in protecting, conserving and sustaining Queensland.

I urge you to listen to the many individuals and organisations in opposition to this proposed Bill, including nearly 900 QCC supporters, and to act with our state's long-term protection in mind.

On behalf of the Queensland Conservation Council, our state's nine regional conservation councils, our 50+ member groups, and our tens of thousands of supporters, please register the strongest opposition to this Bill as it stands.

We encourage law-makers to rewrite this Bill with Queensland's unique and iconic wildlife and natural environments in mind.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Moffat', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nicky Moffat
Protected Areas Campaign Manager
Queensland Conservation Council

Kind regards,