

LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE

AUSTRALIANS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR LAND, WATER, AND FUTURE

The Coordinator-General
Proposed Galilee Basin State Development Area
State Development Areas Division
Office of the Coordinator-General
PO Box 15517, City East Qld 4002
sdainfo@dndip.qld.gov.au

28th March 2014

RE: Submission on the Galilee Basin State Development Area

Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Galilee Basin State Development Area (GBSDA), the Lock the Gate Alliance (LTG) has grave concerns about the proposal for an SDA and urges the Government to withdraw this plan immediately.

LTG has commissioned a detailed report into the GBSDA and the associated coal rail lines, which we have attached as part of our submission (See Appendix 1). The report exposes the impacts on farming and food producing lands across 2 million hectares of the GBSDA. The associated rail lines will, if built, negatively impact landholders in the region by bisecting properties, dramatically changing the management of cattle and horticulture properties, changing surface water flow, affecting flood plains and degrading the value of the land.

Just the threat of compulsory acquisition and other additional regulation associated with an SDA will decrease the value of properties, and potentially the viability of businesses across the GBSDA.

On the 18th March, after hearing concerns from a number of concerned landholders within the SDA, LTG launched a petition calling on the Queensland Government to withdraw plans for the GBSDA until such a time as correct information can be provided as to the precise areas to be affected. Stating that the consultation period should be restarted once the correct information has been provided to the public. At the time of sending this submission the petition has 847 signatories (see Appendix 2 for signatory details).

There remains severe concerns about the flood mitigation measures proposed for rail lines within the proposed GBSDA. We are concerned that the declaration of the GBSDA will mean reduced scrutiny of projects proposed, taking away landholders rights to negotiate for stronger mitigation measures that will reduce their flood risk, and will rule out the possibility of a different, more appropriate route being chosen.

At a time when the Queensland Government is encouraging a 40% increase in productivity across the agricultural sector, the proposal of an SDA across 2 million hectares of good quality food producing land and important floodplains, beggar's belief. We implore you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Smith, Central Queensland Coordinator
On behalf of the Lock the Gate Alliance
PO Box 8283, Woolloongabba LPO, QLD 4102