



4 August 2017

Ms Machwene Rosina Semanya
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Attention: Ms Albertina Kakaza

Email: akakaza@parliament.gov.za

Dear Madam Chairperson,

Comments on the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill [B22 - 2016]

Agri SA wishes to submit comments on the draft National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill [B22 - 2016] to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for purposes of its hearings on 15 and 16 August 2017.

In general, Agri SA supports the proposed amendments. However, a difficulty arises in instances where multiple properties are, for practical purposes, served by a single fire break.

We are informed that due to the requirement for every property to have fire breaks in place, where a property can only effectively be served by a fire break on an adjoining property, the owner of the former property, is technically in contravention of the requirements of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 101 of 1998. This has in the past lead to insurance companies repudiating claims arising from fires that cause damage to such properties.

It is recommended that the draft National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill be amended to cater for such situations and that a provision be added to the effect that where a property can for practical purposes only be served by a fire break on an adjoining property, such property shall upon the written concurrent by a competent authority be deemed to comply with the requirements of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Kind regards

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