

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

**RE: Submission into the Inquiry of the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

My concerns re land clearing are:

- The loss of habitats and impacts on iconic threatened fauna such as the koala.
- Impacts from tree clearing on the Great Barrier Reef from Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- Climate change and release of millions of tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> from tree clearing.

I support the Bill because it

- Removes the ability to get a permit clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
- Restores protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
- Restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extends provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.

- Removes the 'oops' defence of claimed mistaken clearing, and restores the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property
- Makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

Yours Sincerely

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Robin Ellis

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Bellingen NSW 2454

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