



1 April 2016

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By email: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Wildlife Logan is very supportive of the above proposed legislation, being very concerned about the changes made to the previous land clearing laws enacted by the previous State Government.

The present situation is not sustainable with many of the following impacts:

- 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 CO² from tree clearing.
- Many other effects of local or regional clearing that is leading to a loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and weed infestation.

Accordingly we recommend the passing of the bill, as 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 in riparian zones, and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- Removes the accidental defense of claimed mistaken clearing, and restores the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property. It makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March 2016, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

Vegetation plays such a key role in our environment and mitigates to some extent the harmful impacts of climate change. We recommend that greater incentive is given to landholders to maintain maximum vegetation cover. Some of the large scale clearing that has taken place since the legislation was would wound back is nothing short of wanton destruction.

We have no problem with land being cleared for primary production providing is it done in a sustainable manner with the appropriate controls and undertaken with due consideration for the local fauna, nesting season, time of year and done in an incremental manner to allow wildlife to re-locate.

We support the bill and look forward to its passing.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of David Keogh.

David Keogh
President
Wildlife Logan