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Palm Beach  
QLD 4221

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1/4/16

**SUBMISSION:  
Inquiry into the Queensland Land Clearing Reform Bill**

I want to voice my support for the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

I believe the Bill is a good one for a variety of important reasons.

Firstly, the Bill removes the ability to get a permit for 'High Value Agriculture', and thus stops large-scale clearing of precious remnant woodlands.

Secondly, the Bill restores protections for ecologically important, recovering woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.

Thirdly, the Bill restores protections for trees in riparian areas and extends provisions from some to *all* Great Barrier Reef catchments. This is particularly significant in light of recently-released information about the extent of coral bleaching in sections of the Reef.

Furthermore, the Bill does not allow for claims of 'mistaken' land clearing, and restores the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for the clearing that takes place on his/her property.

Finally, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic-driven applications, the Bill makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March.

As a resident of South-East Queensland, I am passionate about stopping land clearing because of its incredibly deleterious effects on our natural environment. Land clearing is directly responsible for the loss of habitat of iconic threatened species such as the koala. Tree clearing also directly impacts Great Barrier Reef catchments and has a harmful effect on the Reef as a whole. Worst of all, perhaps, is the fact that land clearing releases of millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and has a direct impact on global climate change.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stuart Cooke