

1/4/2016

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Re: Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill

I am most concerned about the loss of habitats and impacts on iconic threatened creatures such as the koala. Also of concern are the impacts from tree clearing on the Great Barrier Reef from Great Barrier Reef catchments.

In this time of climate change we need to keep our vegetation so we do not release millions of tonnes of CO2 from tree clearing into the atmosphere.

I think the Bill is good because it:

1. Removes the ability to get a permit for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stops large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
2. Restores protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
3. Restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
4. 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.
5. It 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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