

Shannon O'Grady

[REDACTED]
Darlington WA 6070
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Regarding the inquiry into the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*. It is my understanding that this bill has been referred to the committee for an inquiry and that public submissions are now open, please consider this letter to be my submission.

I am making this submission today because I **support** this bill and believe it should pass, I am against wide scale land clearing and the bill has several key points in favour of this opinion:

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

It seems that this bill will be effective in reducing land clearing, and as a result protect natural habitats which in the long term encourages biodiversity. The loss of habitat is more important than it has ever been on a world scale, with more than 50% decline in species numbers since the 1970s. Threatened species such as the Koala are at real risk of extinction if the loss of their habitat continues at current rates.

The impacts of climate change are being felt, and the carbon stored in trees is a significant factor, when trees are cleared on a large scale millions of tons of CO₂ is released into the atmosphere. You would have seen in recent news the effect climate change is having on our Great Barrier Reef, with the massive bleaching event now occurring, tree clearing will have even more effect on the reef from Great Barrier reef catchments.

Sincerely yours,

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Shannon O'Grady