

[REDACTED] Auchenflower, QLD 4066  
[REDACTED]

4/2/2016

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**RE: the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016***

Dear Research Director,

I am writing in support of the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*. The protection of biodiversity in Queensland is of critical importance. When the biodiversity values of our natural ecosystems are protected and managed appropriately, they have both deep intrinsic value and great economic value. When remnant and regrowing native vegetation is cleared at a large scale, as it has been in recent years, those intrinsic and economic values of our biodiversity are lost. In some instances these values can never be recovered, such as when land clearing causes species extinctions.

I believe that the proposed legislation is of great benefit because it:

1. Stops large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
2. Restores protections for ecologically important High Value Regrowth on freehold and Aboriginal land.
3. Restores protections for native vegetation in riparian areas and extends provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
4. Removes the 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 2016, in an attempt to deter rushed clearing of remnant and regrowth native vegetation.

For the reasons described above, I recommend that the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* be passed in full.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Julian Beaman