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Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Submission letter regarding the 'The Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016'

I, my family and friends feel strongly about the cessation of large scale land clearing for many reasons. They include but are not limited to:

The detrimental effects of lost habitats and the impact this has on threatened species.

The detrimental impacts from tree clearing on the Great Barrier Reef and from Great Barrier Reef catchments.

The well documented effects of climate change due to the release of millions of tonnes CO2 into the atmosphere from sources including tree clearing.

We think the reinstatement of the above mentioned Bill is good because 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 next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.

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

Please consider the well-being of our native flora, fauna, water ways and ozone as this affects us all presently and into the future. When you consider that everything is interconnected, the cycle is only as strong as its weakest link. And some things, once broken cannot be repaired. We have to start the repair phase before it is too late.

Australia's and the planet's environmental health is an enormous responsibility to undertake and a huge personal guilt to carry if we fail.

Yours sincerely,  
Lisa Sawtell.

