

Submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill

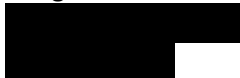
Dear Sir,

I wish to add my support for the passage of this reform bill. There is no doubt that the world is warming in line with the predictions made by climate scientists. These changes will have devastating effects on our natural environment if they are not minimised. For example already we have seen dramatic bleaching and death of coral on the Great Barrier Reef, Lemuroid Ringtail Possum numbers have plummeted in Queensland rainforests, and koalas are in rapid, perhaps terminal, decline in Queensland and NSW. All these examples are due to global warming. The impacts are happening already.

It is well recognised that the fastest and most cost effective way to keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere is to retain natural vegetation. Yet changes to the Queensland legislation have meant that native vegetation is being cleared at rates equal to or above that in developing countries such as Brazil and Indonesia.

The proposed reform bill is a measured and sensible start to redressing this damaging activity and should be supported by everyone who recognises that the longer we defer action on climate change the more difficult remediation will be and the environmental cost will be much higher.

Sincerely,  
Greg Baxter

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Greg Baxter.

Kholo 4306.