

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Submission in relation to the Bill introduced regarding Vegetation management in QLD.

From

Dr Fiona McAllan
[REDACTED] Sydney, 2021.

Re Bill

Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 – which has been referred to the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee for an Inquiry.

I am writing to give my full support to this Bill which

- 1 Removes the ability to get a permit clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stop 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 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.

The Bill is clearly vital to put a necessary halt to reckless land clearing in Queensland, which has accelerated at unprecedented levels recently, and has allowed for destruction and degradation of land and forests on a dangerous and environmentally threatening pace.

I support the Bill to reinstate vegetation management because the Queensland government must prioritise the regrowth of woodlands and protect catchment areas necessity for protection of habitat, so providing ecologically sound management for future generations.

Australians must learn to live sustainably, and this means it is fundamentally necessary to organize correct infrastructure. This requires management legislation that protects ecosystems – ecosystems that all humans rely on. Australians must not allow destruction of the environment that is necessary sustain human habitation, as global temperature levels continue to threaten to rise. The Queensland government must show the rest of Australia that it can ensure responsible land practice that promotes environmentally supportive and responsible management of lands, waters and forests – supporting ecosystems which support human life.

Yours sincerely

Dr Fiona McAllan