

## **Queensland Land Clearing Reform Bill (2016).**

The Land Clearing Reform Bill currently being considered by Parliamentary Committee is a worthwhile piece of legislation that will curb the excesses that prevailed under the former Bill. After the previous LNP government relaxed the rules on land clearing, those with concerns about the Queensland natural environment, including me, have been at pains to try to have legislation with more control substituted.

The proposed legislation should achieve this, specifically –

1. Permits will not be available as a prelude to clearing land for so-called High Value Agriculture
2. It affords protection for regrowth to assist revegetation of certain areas
3. Trees in riparian zones will be protected
4. Irresponsible clearing of trees will invoke penalties and as such should prevent or minimise panic clearing in the period before the legislation is enacted.

I am personally concerned at the damage the current lax laws on land clearing do on a number of fronts. Loss of natural habitat is a critical issue for we cannot afford to do more clearing in the fashion that has been established historically. Habitat destruction has a major influence upon the success and distribution of our native fauna. Some of these species (e.g. koala) are threatened in many areas. Tree clearing is destructive in other ways e.g. contribution to increased CO2 production resulting from tree removal, contributing further to the problem of climate change.

I think this is a constructive Bill that will benefit this state.

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