

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission concerning the introduction of the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 which has been referred to the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee for an Inquiry.

I strongly support this legislation for a number of reasons:

- It removes the ability to obtain a permit to clear for so-called "High Value Agriculture" and will therefore stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
- It will restore protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
- It restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extends provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- It removes the defence of "mistaken" clearing and restores the 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.
- It will reduce the loss of habitats and impacts on iconic threatened native fauna such as the koala.
- It will support positive climate change through a reduction in the release of millions of tonnes CO2 from tree clearing.

By supporting this change in legislation, it is my hope that Queensland can re-strengthen its land-clearing laws and make better efforts to look after the environment so as to ensure that generations to come can continue to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of our state!

Regards,
Adrian Cooke

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