

Agriculture and Environment Committee

5 April 2016

Parliament House

Brisbane Q4000

This is my formal submission in support of the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

As a citizen and longtime resident of Queensland I am extremely concerned at the progressive deterioration of the State's environmental heritage. I therefore welcome introduction of the Bill named above and strongly urge its passage through the Parliament. In past decades vast areas of natural vegetation have been cleared in our state for agricultural and other purposes. While this process has been advantageous from the point of view of agricultural production and general development, it has seriously compromised the habitat of our native fauna and threatened the biodiversity on which our society depends for its long-term well being. By virtue of its effects on water run-off it has also added to the amount of silt and other contaminants deposited in coastal waters and thereby placed severe pressure on the already threatened corals of the Great Barrier Reef. These processes were dangerously exacerbated by the actions of the previous State Government, which partly justified its approach by the promise of 'high-value' agriculture on cleared land that is in fact most unlikely to eventuate. The Parliament has an obligation to manage the resources of Queensland for the long-term benefit of its citizens and indeed its entire ecosystem. The Bill under consideration is one step in this direction and should be voted into law.

Sincerely

(signed) Robert Byrnes

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