

From: [REDACTED]
To: [vminquiry](#)
Subject: Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill
Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2016 9:01:55 PM
Attachments: [Research Director.docx](#)

Please see attached Submission as word file, or text below

Re: submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill

I am writing because I am really concerned about the low level of protection for Queensland's environment.

In particular, I am extremely concerned for the Great Barrier Reef, now that the extent of bleaching is showing immense disaster for the reef. Tree clearing affects the reef through the Great Barrier Reef catchments, which should all now have high priority emergency protection.

Climate change is increased by the release of millions of tonnes CO2 from tree clearing, and this just makes the reef situation worse.

Also extreme habitat loss is driving toward extinction our threatened species like the Koala.

I think the Bill is good because it removes permits to clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thereby stops large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands

I support the Bill because it restores protections for ecologically important woodlands that are regrowing ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.

It restores protections for trees along riverbanks ('riparian areas').

It removes the 'oops' defense of claimed mistaken clearing, and restores the starting 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.

I hope this Bill gets the support it needs to pass quickly.

Sincerely,

Kris Schmäh

5/4/16

[REDACTED]
Woollongabba, 4102