

Mr Rory Chapple

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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing today to express my support for Queensland's proposed clearing reform bill. I was brought up in Qld and lived in SE Qld for over 20 years. It disappoints me to travel back to Qld and see the continued impacts of vegetation clearing. In recent years I am aware that this clearing has increased markedly and this is of concern to me.

In particular it saddens me to hear that we have one of the highest levels of tree clearing in the entire western world. Why should this be in such a progressive and civilised society? I believe that it is the government's role to hold land owners to account and not allow this clearing to go on unabated.

Critical areas of concern for me include:

- the amount of topsoil that enters the GBR ecosystem and the subsequent damage done to the reef due to siltation.
- The degradation of Qld's rangelands and future losses for stock holders on these lands. My experience shows that these lands are almost impossible to rehabilitate. Once damaged they lose their future productivity.
- The loss of habitat for wildlife. In isolation a land clearing event can seem small but when considered in the context of decades of continual clearing we are left with a degraded landscape for future generations to deal with. For this reason alone we must stop this from happening.
- The loss of carbon stored in woodlands and forests is also of importance. The release of CO₂ into the atmosphere is contributing significantly to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

The most important positives that would eventuate if this bill was passed is that remnant woodlands - often home to rare and endangered flora – would be protected and secondly that riparian vegetation, that is so important for soil stabilisation and protection - would be maintained and therefore help to prevent the millions of tonnes of sediment from entering the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.

For these reasons, (and for future generations who will surely be saying what were we thinking!?) I believe that the Bill should be passed.

Yours sincerely



Rory Chapple