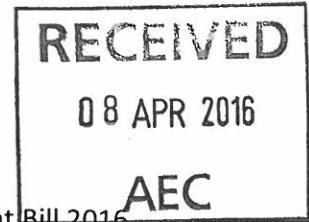


To Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Re the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Dear Director.

I am a NSW citizen deeply concerned at the reported wide spread destruction of native vegetation in your State and make this submission that this Bill be passed without any amendment. The effects of vegetation loss is of National importance.

Consider that the Bill

- ☒ Removes the ability to get a permit clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
- ☒ Restores protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
- ☒ Restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- ☒ Removes the 'oops' defence 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.

Without this legal protection there is the loss of habitats and impacts on iconic threatened critters such as the koala: the Impacts from tree clearing on the Great Barrier Reef from Great Barrier Reef catchments and overshadowing all the effect on Climate change and release of millions of tonnes CO2 from tree clearing.

Owing to the growing need to feed ourselves and others as the temperature of our biosphere rises every millimetre of topsoil needs cherishing.

I beg you, report that this Bill must become law.

Faithfully

All joys

Peter Nicholas

Nowra. NSW