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To: vminquiry
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Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill
Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2016 8:41:39 PM

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000, Email: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

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

The Bill just introduced to Queensland Parliament to restrengthen the state's tree clearing laws – the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 – has been referred to the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee for an Inquiry.

Support is expressed for the reforms and urge its passing.

Because 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these remarks to your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Robert E. Rutkowski

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