

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
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I wish to make a submission to the current Inquiry by the Agriculture and Environment Committee of the Queensland Government to support the reforms contained in the Land Clearing Reform Bill.

For some time I have been disturbed and concerned at the escalation of land clearing in Queensland as a result of policies of previous Queensland governments. Although I live in Victoria, the effects of land clearing are not confined to state borders and I would be equally concerned by land degradation in any state of Australia.

We have an impending disaster with runaway global warming if we do not take multiple measures to curb CO2 emissions. This means drastically reducing or halting emissions and retaining the terrestrial carbon bank wherever possible. As a result of our global inactivity over the last two decades, we are now starting to see the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef and other coral reefs around Australia, which is truly a terrible indictment on human behaviour and policies over the last century.

Given the uncertain outlook for expanded farming in Queensland in the near future because of the uncertainties that global warming and climate change will cause, no irrefutable case can be made for the opening up of more large-scale farming land at this stage. Reduction of tree cover also increases land heat which can have both local and more distant adverse effects.

Therefore I support the Bill which will address the problems of:

- Increasing Carbon emissions
- Reduction of Carbon "banking"
- Destroying habitat for our native fauna
- Removal of vegetation near waterways
- Increasing local land heat

Yours sincerely
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