

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Attn - Committee Chair

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

I am writing to the Committee in support of the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I believe it is important to strengthen the existing legislation so that habitat loss and impacts on such animals as our iconic (and threatened) koala are dramatically reduced.

Tree clearing also causes indirect impacts on the Great Barrier Reef by increasing sediment runoff into catchments. Climate change is also exacerbated by the release of millions of tonnes CO2 from tree clearing.

I support the Bill because it can stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands by removing the ability of uncaring landowners to get a permit clear for so-called High Value Agriculture.

Further, it restores protections for ecologically important woodlands that are currently regrowing (known as 'High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.

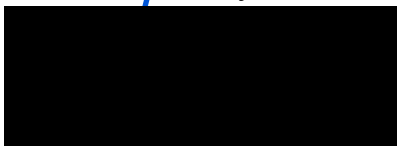
Also, it restores protections for the all-important riparian zones, and extends provisions from *some* to *all* Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Another important feature is that the Bill removes the 'I made a mistake' defence where clearing is claimed to have taken place accidentally, and restores the *starting* presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property.

Finally, it makes significant parts of the legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

This is a good Bill, and I commend it to the Committee and to the Parliament.

Yours faithfully,



Dick Clarke



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13 April 2016