

Submission: Agriculture and Environment Committee

Queensland Parliament, Brisbane.

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

Author: Paul Loney

[REDACTED]

City East

4002

[REDACTED]

I make these points to strongly support the passage of the above Bill. Current trends in agricultural and mining practices need not require the loss of native woodland and fauna habitat. Additionally much of the ecological attractiveness of our State rests on preserving its natural beauty rather than wholesale destruction.

- Tree clearing law reform in Queensland is one where all residents, businesses and primary industry will benefit. Imperiled natural flora and fauna can begin to stabilise and enjoy protection for future generations to value.
- Sadly clearing rates in Queensland have risen rapidly. In 2013/14 alone, nearly 300,000 hectares of native woodlands were cleared, much of it vital habitat for threatened species such as the koala.
- There has also been the release of some 36 million tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. Tree clearing is bad for habitats and our native wildlife, the Great Barrier Reef and managing climate change.
- I welcome that the new Bill will restore tree clearing laws to the responsible and sustainable conditions of 2012, and strengthen protection for Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- It is also a strong positive that the Bill is designed to deter panic clearing by applying from March 17 if it becomes law.

I strongly urge the Committee to recommend the passage of this bill to help safeguard Queensland's prosperity and dwindling natural habitats.

Paul Loney

Date: 14 April 2016