

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Research Director, Agriculture and Environment Committee,

As a rural resident on the Sunshine Coast I have recently experienced, first hand, two instances of possible illegal clearing of 10 year old plus regrowth bushland which were covered by an EVNT "at risk" rare plants survey trigger map, and have heard of other possible "panic" clearings. These instances are currently being investigated by DEHP.

I am appalled that such law changes were made by the Newman Government while in office which have allowed this and other very large clearings to occur throughout Queensland over the past three years or so. Please see attached map.

I was involved in fighting land clearing in Queensland in the early to mid 1980s, and am incredulous that we are having to fight the same issue again over thirty years later! This must NEVER be allowed to happen again!

I am therefore in full support of the bill.

I feel the Bill is warranted as it removes the ability to get a permit to clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stops large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.

It also 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 extends provisions from some, to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.

It 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.

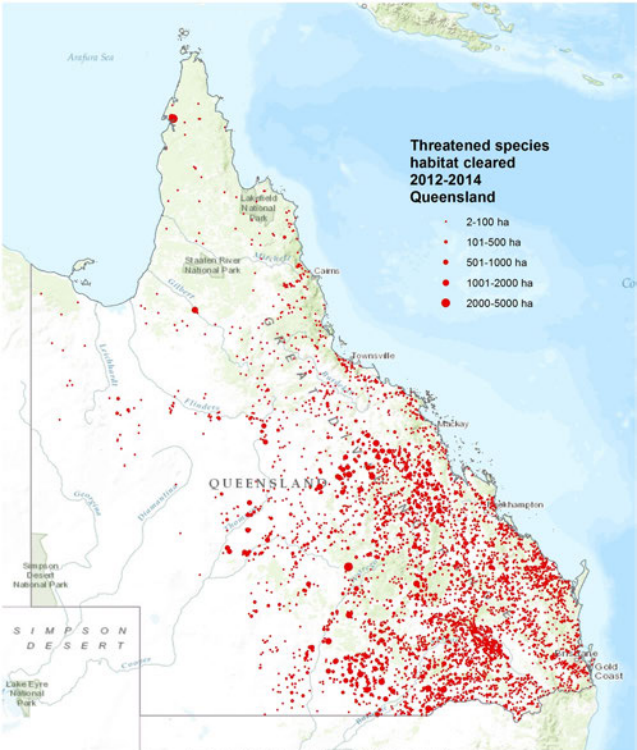
It will also make much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications which are a very real concern.

I implore you to pass this bill as is so we can have "decent" protection for our ever disappearing bushland, along with all the native wildlife totally dependent upon it.

Your sincerely

Mark Jones

Verrierdale
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Map produced by Martin Taylor, WWF, Feb 2016, intersecting 3 layers:

- Queensland Government SLATS entire record to 2014
- Queensland Government digital cadastral database
- Australian Government Species of National Environmental Significance (retaining only terrestrial species and known or likely to occur polygons)