

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 April 2016 9:40 AM
To: vminquiry
Subject: RESTORING LAND CLEARING CONTROLS IN QUEENSLAND

From Katharine Cordner Hunt

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To whom it may concern

I write in relation to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill , and I support the reinstatement of this Bill to exert better controls over land clearing in Queensland

There are a number of issues of great concern to people all over Australia. Queensland needs to play a role in the National effort to reduce loss of habitats and impacts on threatened fauna and flora.

All Australians want to see the Great Barrier Reef protected into the future, yet tree clearing from Great Barrier Reef catchments has enormous impact on the Great Barrier Reef itself.

Millions of tonnes CO2 released from tree clearing makes a dramatic contribution to Climate change. All of Australia must pull together to reduce our impact, Queensland cannot be exempt.

I support the Bill and recommend its passing for the following reasons – that it:

- 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.
- Makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

Thank you
Yours sincerely

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