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Subject: A submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill

Strict control of large scale vegetation clearing is vital for our Queensland environment long term. However, unchecked urban land clearing is just as important and I would like to draw attention to a failed Act designed by the Queensland Government to protect vegetation. As it has already been shown to be ineffectual, will there be any guarantees that this new 'Queensland land clearing reform Bill' would be any different and be enforced?

Unfortunately, despite there being Vegetation Protection Acts and Orders put in place when the Koala Coast Concept was implemented in the 1970s, vegetation has been wantonly destroyed since then on privately owned land with apparent impunity. This is despite initial Government threats of strict VPO enforcement with substantial fines and the need for revegetation where necessary.

This has been my 50 year observation since then in Burbank's acreage area where I have lived near the Brisbane Koala Bushland and other large reserves of Logan and Redlands. Sites such as "Near Maps" also provide excellent comparative images of vegetation density changes, all date stamped and covering an extended period of time.

In my opinion, it is the vegetation on private acreage lands that will substantially impact on the long term viability of all fauna and flora and any reserve. However it does require protection in rural-residential areas, especially when Asian investors in real estate are desirous of tree-free land and will accordingly pay premium prices. Real estate agents tout this openly to sellers who react accordingly.

As well as this being relevant for the Queensland land clearing reform Bill considerations, it is also necessary to establish why the Koala Coast Act has not been enforced for so long?

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