

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
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We wish to offer our support to the proposed amendments' to the vegetation management act.

Far North Queensland forests are under constant attack, mainly from clearing by burning by various government agencies, Aboriginal owners and pastoralists. It matters not who does the clearing whether it's permitted, accidental, for the supposed function of fire management or any other reason, the damage is the same.

We now know so called hazard reduction burning causes far more harm than good with the latest research showing that to achieve one hectare of temporary protection its necessary to burn and severely damage between three and five hectares of forest.

In addition the extent of burning the wet tropical forest of north Queensland has reached extreme proportions with over 40% of these forests now being severely damaged every year. No living thing can survive this blitzkrieg of burning.

This produces huge quantities of highly dangerous Pm2.5 particulate pollution. Again we now know airborne pollution in Australia is responsible for over three thousand deaths p.a.

In addition are the devastating effects on native wildlife with the majority of small and slow moving animals being incinerated in these fires.

The extent and damage these fires cause is being completely ignored by everybody including so far this committee, we sincerely hope you now recognise deliberate burning is by far the biggest cause of forest clearing in North Queensland.

For and on behalf of the Environment & Health Committee. Cardwell
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