

[REDACTED],
Widgee,

Qld., 4570.

Phone, [REDACTED]

To The Research Director

Agriculture and Environment Committee.

Dear Sir,

I am writing this submission as a concerned resident of a rural area west of Gympie, and of Queensland as a whole. I believe the Queensland land clearing reform Bill, if passed, will help to protect the habitats of quite a lot of endangered and vulnerable animals and birds. As a member of the Koala Action Group here in the Gympie region, I am particularly worried about the safety of the koala, especially in the Widgee area. Most of the Gympie area is in a white zone, which enables the landholder to remove any amount of vegetation, without getting a permit or having to report to D.E.R.M. One property here in Widgee, an area of 50 acres, has been cleared of a lot of vegetation, mostly blue gums, that were in a known koala corridor, to get it ready for development. The owner had it cleared before the notice was put up on the gate. I believe the Bill will help to protect the unique animals and birds that make our state their home. As well as protecting the unique fauna and flora that can only be found here in Queensland.

If the millions of tonnes of CO2 emissions, that are released from land clearing can be stopped, surely that is a good result. We can also protect The Great Barrier Reef from being destroyed from bleaching, and loss of habitat in the catchments of the reef. The Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage area and as such should be protected.

Some of the larger properties in the Gympie area have already been cleared to make way for crops and cattle. I am not advocating for a Bill that stops clearing completely, but we should have regulations in place to protect areas of vulnerability. Also there should be controls in place for wide scale clearing for developments, mines and other proposals. If re-zoning is the answer, then maybe that should be a part of the Bill.

I hope that the Members of Parliament use common sense and discretion when voting on this Bill.

Yours Faithfully,

Kathleen O'Donnell.

K.D.O'Donnell

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