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Research Director

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Parliament House

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Chair and Committee Members

Submission to Committee on *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*

I am a private citizen of Queensland and wish to make recommendations regards the protection of Cycads in Queensland and Australia.

The current management of Cycads in Queensland and the whole of Australia is severely lacking.

Issues are:

- *Lack of true mapping of cycad populations.*
- *Lack monitoring of cycad populations.*
- *Some existing cycad populations have/are being destroyed by land clearing for farming, housing development, and timber plantations.*
- *Lack of future proofing cycad species which are slow growing and require specific habitat, pollinating and seed dispersing species of animal and insects to survive. Some species have only one population, should an adverse event occur the entire species is at risk.*
- *Weed management is poor, dominance of fire adapted plants and weed invasion places cycads at additional risk.*
- *Burning off is a poor strategy for weed and environment management as this is too intense (Especially where non native grasses and weeds exist). Poor timing interrupts the breeding cycle of cycads. Observations of cycad populations where burns off and mosaic burning has occurred the subsequent over burning has shown to kill many young and mature plants.*
- *Areas set aside are small isolated patches of land, as a result there is a loss of animals species required for pollination and seed dispersal. Small isolated patched of land prevents the establishment of new populations.*
- *The planting of non indigenous cycads in national parks threatens true species.*
- *Theclinessthes onycha is now a serious threat to "cycas" and other species of cycads, evidence of damage is now obvious in many populations.*
- *Lack of knowledge amongst staff managing National Parks.*
- *Lack of knowledge in local government of CITES protection of cycads.*

Recommendations:

- *Dedicated funding into research and management of all Cycad populations including:*
 - *Mapping of remaining populations - Health status, Numbers and Maturity of plants in each population*
 - *Investigation into threat from Theclinesthes onycha*
 - *Research into control of Theclinesthes onycha*
 - *Development of a management plan specific to each cycad population and each species.*
- *Protection of all remaining cycad populations.*
- *Establishment of new populations of cycads in dedicated protected areas.*
- *Expansion of land banks in areas where cycad populations are threatened.*
- *Establishment of new populations where existing populations are predominately located on privately owned land, and/or resumption of land where populations exist.*
- *Improved weed control.*
- *Cessation of current burning practices until better methods are established that do not threaten existing species.*
- *Improved protection and management of animal and insect species required for pollination and dispersal.*
- *Education of all parks officers on cycads within the parks they are managing.*
- *Removal of non indigenous species from National Parks that have potential to cross pollinate with indigenous populations.*
- *Education of, and significant penalties for, local council who fail to identify and protect species during development.*
- *Compulsory relocation of cycads to avoid plant destruction by farming.*
- *Ban on housing logging, timber plantations and developments where cycad populations exist.*
- *Ban on clear felling in areas with cycad population and establishment of buffer zones for existing populations.*

We would like the opportunity to appear before the Committee in their hearing into this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Yvonne and Bret Dalziel.

Yvonne and Bret Dalziel