

From: [REDACTED]
To: yminquiry
Subject: [REDACTED] Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 20 April 2016 10:44:19 PM
Importance: Low

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Wildlife Queensland - Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Inc, in support of the above Bill.

We are one of the oldest environmental groups in Queensland, with the Caloundra Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, as it then was, being formed in 1963. Our objectives are:-

- to preserve the fauna and flora of Australia by all lawful means
- to educate all sections of the community, particularly the young, in an understanding of the principles of conservation and preservation of the natural environment
- to discourage, by all legal means possible, the destruction, exploitation and unnecessary development of any part of the natural environment
- to encourage rational land use and proper planning of future development and use of the natural environment and management thereof

We support the Bill as it will honour an election promise made by Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk to reinstate the ALP's nation leading tree clearing laws.

The Bill reinstates the provisions of already well accepted Vegetation Management legislation, protecting Queensland's ecosystems and wildlife, which was weakened by the previous government. It will ensure that the Great Barrier Reef, wildlife, soils, waterways and our climate are protected from the devastating impacts, of broadscale clearing

Land clearing has a disastrous effect on wildlife, destroying both them and their habitat, and fragmenting and isolating vegetation corridors which enable the movement of flora and fauna, widening the gene pool. Land clearing also leads to soil erosion, pollution of waterways, and massive run-off on the Great Barrier Reef, now subject to coral bleaching on a disastrous scale.

In this area we have seen the effects of land clearing on many native species, most significantly the Koala, causing loss of their habitat, food trees, and leading to the decimation of local populations.

We have concerns over the likely impact of tree clearing on climate change, as we understand that tree clearing causes millions of tonnes of CO2 to be released into the atmosphere. Trees also attract rain, so essential to the drought stricken areas of Queensland.

We support this Bill because it:-

- reinstates the protection of high value regrowth on freehold and indigenous land
- removes provisions which permit clearing applications for high value agriculture and irrigated agriculture (to our knowledge, there is

- no definition as to what constitutes 'high value agriculture')
- broadens protection of riparian vegetation, especially in the Great Barrier Reef catchments of Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef
 - reinstates the application of the riverine protection permit framework to the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring

It will not affect farmers and landholders ability to undertake legitimate clearing on their land in the course of their normal activities.

It will not limit the amount of agricultural land currently available.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Chamberlain OAM
Vice President
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