

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Emailed to: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Submission to the Inquiry by the Agriculture and Environment Committee into the
*Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016***

I am extremely concerned about the large environmental impact caused by the changes to vegetation clearing legislation that the Neuman government brought in. These impacts include:

- a massive surge in the area cleared each year with ~300,000 ha cleared in 2013/14 alone
- Removal of protection of high conservation value regrowth on freehold land. This has meant 27 endangered regional ecosystems are unable to regrow and recover out of their endangered status due to removal of protections of high value regrowth.
- Massive impacts on biodiversity, including at least 200 threatened species*. The koala has been particularly impacted with the staggering loss of 40,312 hectares of habitat between 2012-2014.
- Increased soil erosion, soil salinity and a reduction in water quality.
- Impacts on the Great Barrier Reef due to increased sediment and nutrient loads in streams from clearing within Reef catchments.
- A lowering of local rainfall in areas that have been cleared (University of Queensland research).
- Massive increases in the CO₂ emissions associated with the change from forest/woodland to grassland or crops.

* (See <http://www.wwf.org.au/?15660/More-than-40000-hectares-of-koala-habitat-cleared>).

The Neuman government had no mandate from the Queensland people to make these changes. During the 2012 election campaign Campbell Neuman stated that a LNP government would not be changing the regulatory framework for vegetation clearing.

I strongly support the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* and urge the committee recommend that the legislation be passed by the parliament. The Palaszczuk government was elected with the clear stated intention of returning the vegetation management legislation that the Neuman government dismantled. The committee should take account of the expression of the will of the Queensland people through the election of the Palaszczuk government.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Albrecht

[REDACTED]

Ocean Shores NSW 2483

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]