

KURANDA
conservation
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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
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Queensland Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

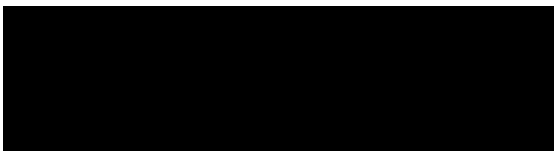
We take this opportunity to support the above Bill.

The objectives of Kuranda Conservation include “the protection and enhancement of the natural environment by assisting the community to use land in an ecologically sustainable way and to enhance biodiversity through education and demonstration.” Clearly, this explains why we fully support the need to reinstate previous more protective land practices that existed before the Newman government overturned them.

We live in the Wet Tropics, adjacent to the World Heritage Area, where we value wildlife habitat and witness regularly the destruction of vegetation for human convenience to the extent that native habitat is reduced and non-native animals are introduced, threatening many species to extinction. Passing the proposed Bill will go some way to restoring the balance between human invasion and wildlife existence.

The effect of vegetation clearing on climate and water quality are well known and scientifically proven. We fully support all efforts to think twice before we clear land to ensure we have taken into account the effect it will have on these major issues. Too often clearing is done in the name of “progress”. Progress for what or whom? If the answer is the economy, then we need to consider what impact saving our own lives from the huge changes climate change is bringing, including producing drinkable water, is going to have on the economy. The figures simply don’t balance. We can afford not to “progress” at speed; we will never be able to afford fixing the problems after we’ve allowed them to occur.

Vegetation clearing is at the base of all this. We urge and support you in passing this Bill – for all our sakes.



Jax Bergersen
Secretary

Innovation in Conservation

Innovators are leaders, not followers