

From: [REDACTED]
To: [vminquiry](#)
Subject: Submission relating to the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Thursday, 21 April 2016 6:26:51 PM

Dear Agriculture and Environment Committee Members

I am forwarding this email as a personal submission relating to your enquiry into the above Bill.

I fully support the purposes of the Bill as set out in the description "About the Bill" included with the Inquiry Overview published on webpage inviting submissions.

All of these purposes will have direct benefits for the Queensland environment.

It is well known that widespread vegetation clearing in Queensland contributes substantially to greenhouse gas emissions and this is unacceptable when the harm caused by these emissions is taken into account. I would expect that members of the Committee, or a substantial majority of members, would be well aware of the scientific consensus that exists regarding the direct link between greenhouse gas emissions and dangerous climate change.

Queensland, perhaps more than any other Australian state, must be seen to take remedial action to limit greenhouse gas emissions because of the impact of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef. As all members know, the Great Barrier Reef is a declared World Heritage site and it contributes enormously to the Queensland economy. The impact of climate change on coral reefs is very well established. Committee members can simply refer to the Consensus Statement on Climate Change and Coral Reef issued following the International Coral Reef Symposium held in Cairns during 2012. This consensus statement was signed by over 2,500 of the world's top marine researchers.

Adding insult to injury, the Great Barrier Reef is now experiencing its worst coral bleaching episode in decades. Whilst warmer waters associated with the El Nino phase are mainly responsible for this bleaching, there is no doubt that temperature increases associated with climate change have aggravated the extent of the devastating harm that has occurred, particularly in the area of the GBR north of my city of Cairns.

As reflected in the Bill, it proposes to assist the GBR in another direct manner – by limiting the clearing of riparian vegetation. Increased sediment and pollutant loads from the Queensland coast is well known to have a detrimental impact on the health of the GBR. Passage of the Bill would reduce this impact.

Farmers are entitled to earn a living but they are not entitled to be environmental vandals. Obviously, land clearing is designed to increase the land available for cultivation/grazing. Landholders should not be entitled to increase their activities by additional land clearing

unless they hold appropriate approvals and the system of granting such approvals must be rigorously monitored so there is not a negative impact on our environment, either directly upon the area/and the species both plant and animal that are endemic to it or indirectly by contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge Committee Members to move forward and fully support the Bill.

Yours faithfully,

Rowan Silva

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