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Coolum Beach Qld.4573
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18 April 2016

Research Director
Agriculture & Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld. 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) Act (2016)

Please consider the following public submission relating to this Draft legislation.

I am a single pensioner and member of Australian Conservation Foundation and have concerns over actions taken by the past Queensland Government to weaken vegetation protection legislation that is essential to advance the purposes of its Sustainable Planning Act (2009).

I understand that under Kyoto 1 protocols and the urgent necessary reductions in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, the Australian Government made commitments to phase out large-scale land clearing, particularly in Queensland. Introduction of 'High Value Agriculture' provisions by the Newman Government has contributed to significant increases in large-scale land clearing in recent years.

Changes proposed in the Draft Legislation will address many of my concerns and I support most provisions. However I am troubled that 'High Value Agriculture' provisions remain in the Draft Bill.

In this era of rapid onset of global warming and climate change extremes large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands is an unsustainable agricultural practice. Adoption of the precautionary principle mandated by the EPBC Act (1999) requires removal of 'High Value Agriculture' provisions for a Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) Act (2016) to be effective, and to achieve the purposes of the Sustainable Planning Act.

Yours sincerely,

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Amy-Rose West (Ms)

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