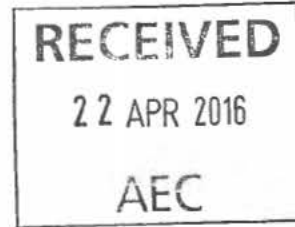


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20 April 2016

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.

It is understood that under Kyoto 1 protocols there is a recognition of the need for reductions in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. The Australian Government made commitments to phase out large-scale land clearing, particularly in Queensland during those negotiations. However introduction of "High Value Agriculture" provisions by the Newman Government into existing legislation has contributed to significant growth in large-scale land clearing in Queensland in recent years.

Changes proposed in the Draft Legislation will address many sea-side community concerns and most provisions are supported. However that ill defined "High Value Agriculture" provisions remain in this Draft Bill is of concern. Seemingly a conflict of interest exists between Queensland's agricultural development proponents and sustainable agricultural development envisaged in an era of greenhouse gas driven climate change acknowledged in the purposes of the Sustainable Planning Act (2009).

Rapid onset of global warming and climate change related extremes suggests large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands is now an unsustainable agricultural practice. Adoption of the precautionary principle mandated by the EPBC Act (1999) requires either removal, or the clear definition of acceptable "High Value Agriculture" provisions in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) Act (2016). This is needed to ensure that application of the legislation is effective and will achieve the purposes of the Sustainable Planning Act for seaside communities on the Sunshine Coast and elsewhere throughout Australia.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
R.J. Koerner