



22 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.

The Coolum Residents Association (CRA) represents the views and opinions of a cross-section of the Coolum community and endorses the vision of the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 for Coolum Beach. CRA has concerns over actions taken by the past Queensland Government to weaken vegetation protection legislation that is essential to advance the Planning Scheme's vision for Coolum Beach and purposes of its Sustainable Planning Act (2009).

It is understood 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 community concerns and CRA supports most provisions. However that ill defined "High Value Agriculture" provisions remain in the Draft Bill is troubling.

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 either removal or the clear definition of "High Value Agriculture" provisions for the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) Act (2016) to ensure the legislation is effective and will achieve the purposes of the Sustainable Planning Act for seaside communities on the Sunshine Coast.

Yours sincerely

*Original signed by*

Peter M Brown  
Secretary  
Coolum Residents Association Inc.