

From: [REDACTED]
To: [vminquiry](#)
Subject: Submission - Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 20 April 2016 11:58:58 AM

I am writing this submission as I want to see an end to land clearing in Queensland which devastates the environment, destroys vital habitats, increases carbon emissions and makes a huge contribution to the damage caused by major adverse weather events such as cyclones and floods.

We have seen land clearing rates in Queensland rise rapidly. In 2013/14 alone, nearly 300,000 hectares of native woodlands were cleared, much of it vital habitat for threatened species such as the koala. This also released some 36 million tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. Tree clearing is bad for habitats and our native wildlife, the Great Barrier Reef and managing climate change.

The Queensland Government has finally put a Bill into Parliament to rein in large-scale and other inappropriate tree clearing across Queensland. If passed, this will help reduce clearing rates and the flow on devastation as listed above.

I support the Bill and recommend its passing. I think the Bill is good because it:

1. Removes the ability to get a permit clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
2. Restores protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
3. Restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
4. Removes the 'oops' defence of claimed mistaken clearing, and restores the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property.
5. It makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

Sincerely

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