

From: [REDACTED]
To: vminquiry
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill
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Research Director

Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
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Dear Agriculture and Environment Committee

I support the land clearing reform Bill just introduced to Queensland Parliament to restrengthen the state's tree clearing laws – the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

My family are 3rd generation graziers in the Central Qld area where in the 80's and 90's the highest percentage removal of native vegetation in the world was occurring, due to rampant and unregulated land clearing.

I am also part owner of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge, a grazing property in the Desert Uplands saved from landclearing in 2000 due to the dedication and funds from private citizens and the National Heritage Trust.

A visit made by then Premier Peter Beattie in 2003 is testament to the significance of the property and how grazing can marry satisfactorily with biodiversity. Bimblebox NR example was given high consideration by the Beattie Government to end DECADES of 'open slather' and in 2004 'An End to Broadscale Clearing by 2006 under the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2004 (Qld)' was published.

'Significantly, the Bill involves the phasing out of broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation by 31 December 2006 under a ballot for the allocation of 500,000 hectares under a transitional cap. 'Of concern' remnant vegetation on freehold land is also protected for the first time, in line with existing protections on leasehold land.'

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/ResearchPublications/ResearchBriefs/2004/200406.pdf>

The Newman Government changed the Queensland's vegetation management laws and allowed the moratorium to be lifted, and in just one year, much of the 300,000 hectares of native woodland destroyed (2012-13) 'came down' in our region, again.

<https://www.wilderness.org.au/sites/default/files/PDFS/TWS%20-%20Climate%20change%20and%20Australia's%20tree%20clearing%20crisis.pdf>

Many graziers like us put ecological health ahead of material wealth and we care for the environment as much as possible. At Bimblebox we are also guardians of a privately owned conservation area, and we are passionate about the ecosystems we protect.

Too much clearing has already happened on the Palaszczuk government watch, so my message to the Government is to get on with your 2015 election promise, restore land clearing laws to a pre-2012 level without hiding behind the inconsistency of offset policies.

Regards

Paola Cassoni

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