

From: [REDACTED]
To: [vminquiry](#)
Subject: The Bill on Land Clearing
Date: Friday, 22 April 2016 7:00:26 AM

Dear People,

Thank you for considering this Bill and the issues surrounding it.

I feel it is crucially important at this time to maintain the natural forest that we still have and ideally to increase it with regrowth forest areas.

My reasons are:

1 Loss of habitat is impacting very badly on a lot of our native species especially the cassowary in Northern Qld which is needed to ensure propagation of a lot of rain forest plants. The koalas are also threatened by habitat loss as are many other plant, animal and insect species.

2 Land clearing is impacting on the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments. This threatens the continued survival of many more ocean dwelling species, the health of the ocean and our fishing industry.

3 Land clearing releases tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere and adds to the impact of climate change.

4 Land clearing diminishes the beauty of our country, adding to the impact of depression on our young people and undermining our tourist industry.

I think the Bill is good because it:

a) Removes the ability to get a permit to clear for so called High Value Agriculture and thus stops large scale clearing of remnant woodlands.

b) Restores protection for ecologically important regrowing woodlands (High Value Regrowth) on freehold and Aboriginal land.

c) Restores protection for trees next to riverbanks and extends provisions for some to all of the Great Barrier Reef catchments.

d) Removes the "oops" defense of claimed mistaken clearing and restores the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property.

e) It makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to March 17 in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

Yours in hope for a better future
for our grand children and great grand children,
Kerry Sutherland
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