

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [vminquiry](mailto:vminquiry)  
Subject: Land Clearing Reform Bill  
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Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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22/04/2016

Dear Research Director

As a science graduate (B.Sc B.A Dip Ed) and secondary school science teacher of over thirty years, I am concerned with the state of our environment, specifically the loss of native habitat, the bleaching episodes on the Great Barrier Reef that are becoming more frequent and more pervasive, and the constant threat to the biodiversity of our State by our current agricultural and mining practices.

I also worked as a Senior Project Officer (Biodiversity) at the Queensland Museum from 2008-2011 and when discussing the state of our wildlife with scientists, researchers and curators, they all agreed that by far the greatest threat to the survival of our terrestrial wildlife, many of which are critically endangered, and to the protection of our biodiversity, is loss of habitat.

I am embarrassed by our nation's lack of action on climate change and our obsession with coal-based energy to the detriment of investment in clean energy.

With regard to the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, I recommend its passing because it:

1. Removes the ability to get a permit cleared 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 his/her property.
5. It makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

Yours sincerely

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