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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
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Dear Chair and Committee Members

Submission to Committee on Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

I am a retired political scientist living in the Atherton Tableland region. Coming from a farming background I have major concerns about land clearing. Much of it is unnecessary especially if the land is to be used for stock. Stock does not need cleared land. Felling of trees results in less rain fall, poorer grass for feed, erosion and increasing salinity levels making the land barren and un-usable. The same happens when land is cleared for agriculture crops. The soil becomes poor and is unable to sustain any farming. I have seen the impact of land clearing in many parts of Australia, including Western Australia and Queensland. The damage is Not reversible. Land is turned into salt pans and deserts. Our environment is extremely vulnerable due to past farming and current mining practices that have focused on short term outcomes, namely quick profits, and neglected to consider the long term impacts on the environment. Farmers need to focus on new methods to farm that are environmentally safe. Land clearing and mining have disastrous impacts on the waterways, the reef. The Tablelands is usually known for its high rainfall, however the impact of climate change, we are receiving less and less rain per year. Our rivers are dryer and we are on water restrictions. This is affecting vegetable and fruit farmers in our area. As our region and surrounding ones become dryer we are at risk of bush fires, which were not an issue years ago. Any further clearing will impact on our area further. Native wildlife is on the decline and many animals are at risk of extinction due to the over abuse of land. I do not support any further land clearing for either agriculture or mining.

Yours sincerely

Dr Myjenta Winter