


**From:**   
**To:** [vminquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Vegetation Management ( Reinstatement ) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Friday, 22 April 2016 12:03:21 PM

---

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

In writing this letter I wish to express my support for the above Bill.  
Having grown up on a dairy farm, I saw first hand, some of the bad effects of too much land clearing. I saw the loss of habitat and native vegetation and the landslides that occurred as a result.  
Also like many Queenslanders I have a passion for protecting our Reef.

Excessive land clearing causes the loss of habitat for land animals such as our native koala. It also puts a great strain on our rivers and waterways.  
There are also negative impacts from tree clearing on the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments.

River-side vegetation is the natural filter for our rivers, The Water Quality and Ecosystem Health research team at the Australian Institute of Marine Science has collected 20 years of data, which shows the connection between high rates of land clearing and reduced reef water quality in the late 1990s and early 2000s.  
Land clearing along rivers and creeks increases sediments, nutrients and pollutants entering our rivers and oceans threatening sensitive areas like seagrass and coral reefs – critical habitat for threatened turtles, dugongs and many of our commercial and recreational fish species.  
It also increases the risk and intensity of flooding, a huge problem for Queensland, threatening increased economic damage from flood.

Too much land clearing also releases millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere which is detrimental to climate

The introduction of the above Bill will be a great step forward to preserving our land, waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.  
It will restore protection for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extends provisions from some, to all, of the Great Barrier Reef.

1. High-Value Regrowth areas of woodland will be protected on freehold and Aboriginal land.
2. Permits to clear High Value agriculture won't be allowed and this will stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
3. It makes landholders responsible for the clearing that occurs on their property.
4. It is retrospective to the 17th March and that will stop panic applications for clearing.

Lastly I wish to express concern for our iconic Reef, which is not only a great natural wonder, but an important tourist destination, supporting jobs and income for our state.

This Bill will do much to preseve the Reef.



Julie Pratt,



The Gap,  
Q4061