



22 April 2016

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

by mail: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Wildlife Logan is writing in regard to the above proposed legislation. We were devastated by the previous LNP Government winding back land clearing legislation, seeing it as a retrograde step and ignoring the science that supports strong controls on land clearing and the national efforts to stem the impact of climate change.

Wildlife Logan was formed in 1989 as the Logan Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and has for over 20 years become a separately incorporated body. During this period, we have experienced substantial changes in planning and associated legislation. This has led to the decline in wildlife across Queensland and locally in particular the virtual extinction of the koala, Queensland's fauna symbol and topically the Commonwealth Games mascot. We place a huge emphasis on protecting the environment not only in conserving wildlife habitat and the lifestyles of residents but also as a major contributor to the economy.

We have no objection to land holders managing their land to boost primary production providing that sensitive ecological systems are not impacted, but totally opposed large scale clearing without retaining some form of vegetation cover. There is no doubt that broad acre land clearing can lead to increasing drought in our already drought stricken state – it has now been proven that the more trees we have, the more rain we have. The benefit of vegetation retention far outweighs the benefits of tree planting where it takes many years for the land to support wildlife and carbon capture.

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President: David Keogh ██████████

Secretary: Alan Grant ██████████

In addition tree clearing has been shown to be a major contributor to global warming with its impact on climate change – tree clearing causes millions of tonnes of CO² to be released into our atmosphere.

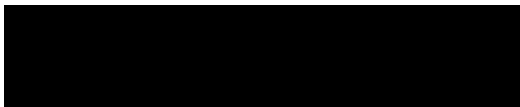
Tree clearing near catchments can cause land erosion and run off into our river catchments – the erosion and run off caused by clearing along the Great Barrier Reef catchment banks is a leading cause of impacts to the Great Barrier Reef.

We support the passing of the bill, to protect Queensland's ecosystems and wildlife. This bill is important particularly because it:

- reinstates the protection of high value re-growth on freehold and indigenous land;
- removes provisions which permit clearing applications for high value agriculture and irrigated agriculture;
- broadens protection of riparian vegetation, especially in the Great Barrier Reef catchments of Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef;
- reinstates the application of the riparian protection permit framework to the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring; and
- reinstates a broader requirement for environmental offsets to be required for any residual impact, not just 'significant' impacts as is currently provided for in offsets legislation (and has led to only 1 offset being registered for vegetation impacts since 2014).

Wildlife Logan thanks the Queensland Government for this opportunity to provide input and looks forward to a positive outcome.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of David Keogh.

David Keogh
President
Wildlife Logan