



We are a community group dedicated to raising awareness about all threats to The Great Barrier Reef and building support for better reef protection.

22 April 2016

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Email: [vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Chair and Committee Members

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

As a grassroots community group based at the heart of Queensland's reef coast, we know that environmental damage done inland and on our coastline by land clearing has extensive ramifications for our precious Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and marine environment.

**Our two major areas of concern are:**

- Run off caused by erosion that leaches into waterways and then makes its way into the ocean and is a leading cause of poor water quality with very detrimental impacts to our GBR.
- The impact of tree clearing on climate change; as tree clearing causes millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to be released into our atmosphere. This causes water temperatures to rise, and when the water stays too hot for too long corals suffer heat stress and bleach. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 The National Coral Bleaching Taskforce released new information regarding the current horrific bleaching event, including that:
  - 93% of the Great Barrier Reef has been affected by coral bleaching;
  - Between 60% and 100% of corals are severely bleached on 316 reefs, nearly all in the northern half of the Reef;
  - North of Port Douglas, scientists are already measuring an average of close to 50% mortality of bleached corals;
  - On some reefs, the final death toll is likely to exceed 90%.

We hope that the Committee supports the passing of the Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 because, amongst other things, it restores protections for trees next to riverbanks and extends provisions from some to all GBR catchments, which are essential to help ensure the future survival of our precious Great Barrier Reef.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Sandra Williams  
Director

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