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**To:** [vminquiry](mailto:vminquiry)  
**Subject:** Submission to Committee on Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016  
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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 to Committee on Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016***

I write to express my deep support for the reinstatement of the [Queensland Vegetation Management \(Reinstatement\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016](#).

The value of tree cannot be underestimated in their high intrinsic value to the fragile Australian ecosystem, the benefits in attracting rain, absorbing carbon. Carbon sequestration, a process where CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the atmosphere and stored for a long period of time, is one of the best ways to slow or reverse the accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> in the earth's atmosphere.

I am also concerned for the effects of land clearing on the Great Barrier Reef. Trees help to retain moisture in the soil and without them, valuable topsoil and sediment are lost. Agricultural chemicals also affect the sensitive world heritage reef.

Koalas and native fauna and specialised endemic flora are also at great risk from land clearing.

Past panic clearing makes me terribly sad to see that the Government has allowed clearing - as much as 50 000 ha in one case by one land holder - ridiculous. This cannot continue.

I think the Bill is good because it:

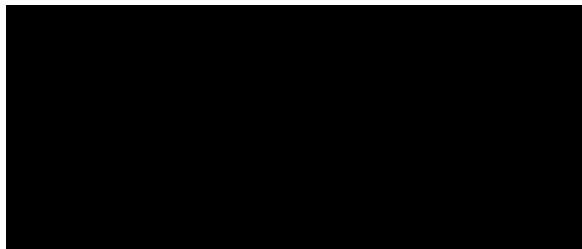
- Removes the ability to get a permit clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
- Restores protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
- Restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- Removes the 'oops' defence of claimed mistaken clearing, and restores the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property. It makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

I write to express my deep support for the reinstatement of the [Queensland Vegetation Management \(Reinstatement\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016](#).

author's name and signature

Gemma Wright

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- Yours sincerely,

Gemma Wright

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