

Steven Nowakowski
Steven Nowakowski Publishing
[REDACTED]
CAIRNS QLD 4870
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Agriculture and Environment Committee,

RE: Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

I wish to express my urgent (and my businesses desire) to reinstate the Vegetation Management Act as quickly as possible.

The Newman Government recinded this important legislation without the will nor consultation required under a democratic system.

The strong land clearing laws before the Newman Government saw a direct correlation with reduction in broad scale land clearing. I saw evidence of this whilst conducting my business as a nature photographer and publisher.

The previous land clearing laws were introduced in part as a request by the Howard Government to meet our Kyoto Protocol of reducing carbon from entering the atmosphere. The best way to do this is to stop broad scale land clearing. It is vital we keep trees in the ground, carbon and moisture stored in the soil and our riparian zones intact to reduce the impact of erosion and sedimentation.

The rush to clear 30,000ha in Cape York during the dying days of the Newman Govt is testament to the insane nature of the legislation as it now stands. Cape York, the largest region of savannah woodlands left in the world and worthy of World Heritage Listing fast tracked for clearing by Sweeney in secret back room deals. This cannot continue.

Apart from my personal belief that land clearing laws in Queensland must be tightened my livelihood also depends on the green credentials of this state. My business will continue to thrive if this state acknowledges the effects of climate change and acts now to mitigate it's threats. The most easiest way to meet our targets is to cease clearing old growth, regrowth and riparian zones.

Thank You for your time,

Steven Nowakowski
[REDACTED]
KURANDA QLD 4881
[REDACTED]