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Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
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Dear Chair and Committee Members

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

I am a member of the tax-paying public who is concerned about land clearing for several reasons. I may be a city dweller for now, but I am from Generation Y and am trying to build up some skills, savings and Super so that I can afford to make a tree change within the next ten years.

I am active in several organisations that promote and research renewable energy and alternative farming methods and am fully aware of the dangers of excessive land clearing. Australia has enough droughts, desert and grass land, what we need more of is functioning eco systems so that the ground beneath our very feet has something to hold on to. Eco systems also change the weather systems attracting rain, and in our drought-stricken country, with millions spent on drought relief and the mental health of farmers at terrible lows, that should be a cause to not clear more land, but rather plant more native plants.

So this Bill is important to me because I live in – and on – this country and rely on it for my food and water. One of the organisations I volunteer for, Beyond Zero Emissions, has released some great research in regards to land use and sustainable farming methods (<http://bze.org.au/landuse>) which also has a section on land clearing, please take some time to get familiar with alternative ways of managing land. We do not need any more research into this, we have the data from Australia as well as other places around the world where land clearing has had massive negative impacts as outlined below:

- the impact of tree clearing on increasing drought in our already drought stricken state – it has now been proven that the more trees we have, the more rain we have;
- protecting koalas, and other threatened species like birds;
- the impact of tree clearing on climate change – tree clearing causes millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 our Reef;

I 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 regrowth 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 riverine 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).

I hope you appreciate the 30 minutes I have taken out of my very busy schedule to write out this letter to you and personalise it as much as possible to give you an idea of where I come from. There are many other people like me, who care about this Bill being passed and live in the suburbs of Brisbane, but simply do not have the time and energy to make a submission.

Yours sincerely