

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ym inquiry](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: A submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill
Date: Sunday, 24 April 2016 5:05:44 PM
Importance: High

TO:
Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

I love this country and, in particular, its wild places which contain such amazing and diverse ecosystems. We have remnants of Gondwanan forests in the south and verdant rainforests in the north. ALL need more protection - now and in the future.

However, as human activities enroach ever more destructively into wild areas - all for more human housing, roads, industry etc we are losing species or pushing them literally to the brink of extinction....no more so than our iconic koala in QLD. This marsupial is under severe stress as a result of manmade habitat loss. There are also impacts from tree clearing on the Great Barrier Reef from Great Barrier Reef catchments.

More important even perhaps that this (and I don't condone the impact on native wildlife at all) is the very significant negative impact on climate change with the millions of tonnes of CO2 release resulting from tree clearing.

I support the Bill 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.

Thank you for consideration of my submission to the Inquiry regarding the QLD land clearing Reform Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sue Schofield

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