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### Introduction

This is a Submission on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

I strongly support the passing of the Bill for a number of strong scientific reasons.

### Local Climate

Unrestricted tree clearing has a known effect on local climactic conditions. I have read scientific papers that show that forests promote humidity in the immediate surrounding area and that rainfall is increased. This Bill is good for farmers, and if unrestricted clearing is prevented, the frequency and severity of droughts will be reduced.

### Global Effects

Tree clearing, on the scale currently carried out in Queensland, has a significant effect on our CO2 emissions. Queenslanders are now, per capita, the highest CO2 polluters on the planets. We need to make every effort to reverse this shameful situation. Climate change is bad for Queensland. Right now we are experiencing record hot summers, this will only worsen.

### Environmental Damage

Tree clearing creates significant damage to the environment with impacts such as loss of habitat and increased runoff to the Great Barrier Reef.

### Recommendations

1. Please pass this Bill without delay
2. Please increase the powers and resources of the regulatory bodies to enforce the Bill
3. Please examine other areas where CO2 emissions can be reduced in Queensland

Yours faithfully



Dr Harry Asche