From:vminquiryTo:vminquirySubject:Land clearing bill inquiryDate:Wednesday, 27 April 2016 10:01:15 PM

The uncleared land we have left in Queensland is a small remnant of what was there originally. As more and more of it was cleared in historic times, the same justification was made: clearing was necessary for the expansion of agriculture, and only a part of it would be taken down. When that part had been taken down and some years had passed, the exercise and its spurious justification was repeated. The process has only one end point if responsible conservation measures are not enshrined in law. Few practices have been more egregiously destructive for short-term gain than forest clearing, not only in Queensland but in countries like Indonesia and Brazil. We must overcome the insatiable and unsustainable trend of clear-felling the natural world on which we depend.

I urge those taking part in the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill to consider the lessons of history and the clear signals nature is sending to us in our time, and approve all measures to curb further inroads into our remnant forests.

Sincerely

Mike Downes

Townsville, QLD 4810.