

Trevor Bacon

The Gap 4061

Research Director

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Parliament House

BRISBANE QLD

Re: Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Dear Research Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the above Bill.

I support the Amendment Bill because it restores the requirement of responsible stewardship of Queensland's remaining bushland with its particular focus on watercourse areas and ecologically important regrowing woodlands.

These amendments to the Vegetation Management Act to protect habitat loss are necessary for the following reasons:

- Queensland is one of the World's flora and fauna hotspots with over 8000 species of flora alone (comparing to say England's less than 2000 species) which demands responsible management.
- Australia as a nation, along with 192 other nations, is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and Queenslanders play an important role to fulfil the obligations of this program.
- Land clearing to date has reached 70% of the State (Australian Bureau of Rural Sciences 2010; Fig. 5) with some ecosystems below 10% of their original extent. While 5% of the State's land area held in National Parks it is imperative that effective legislation exists to manage the remaining 25% if we are to avoid a biodiversity crises in a number of ecosystems.

I encourage the committee to learn from State health preventative programs and go further to require in conjunction with the Bill a consistent school education program. This would result in future generations no longer focusing on the punitive aspects of the Bill but instead as informed citizens and land owners see it as a basis for reassurance that Queensland's rich natural heritage is sustained for future generations.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Trevor Bacon.

Trevor Bacon