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PIALBA QLD 4655

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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Re. Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Dear Chair and Committee Members

I am grateful to have the opportunity to comment on the Queensland Government's *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

Some 45 years ago I left Sydney to work on properties in far northwest NSW and southwest Queensland. Through personal interest I undertook a BSc (Botany and Ecology) followed by a PhD. Subsequent employment was in plant pathology and invasive species with the Victorian Dept Primary Industries for 10 years. During/since that time I have travelled extensively and lived in many different habitats in Australia. Am now living in the Wide Bay Burnett Region of Queensland. I have also flown across Australia from either Melbourne or Brisbane to cross the Kimberley coastline on numerous occasions.

According to the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study report released in 2015, approximately 78,000 ha/year of forest and woodland was being cleared in 2009–10. That figure rose to nearly 300,000 ha/year in 2013–14! These figures indicate that land clearing in Queensland is out of control, and the regulatory environment and laws relating to land clearing need to be strengthened.

Based on my reading of the documents listed below, my submission is to wholeheartedly support the reinstatement of stronger vegetation management laws, specifically addressing the effects of land clearing in Queensland. I strongly urge the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee to pass this Bill as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully

Rodney H Jones

Sources:

The *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*
The *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*
Explanatory Notes
AgForce Queensland – Our Policies – Land – Vegetation Management
Highlights of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan
ABC News web pages
The Guardian
Queensland Parliament website