

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ym inquiry](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] Queensland Land Clearing reform Bill - A Submission to the Inquiry
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Attn:

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

A submission to the Inquiry into the Queensland Land Clearing reform Bill.

Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

In 2016, it is time for Queensland to step up, take responsibility and NOT destroy more of Queensland's natural vegetation. In times of economic hardship as the future will be, Queensland must recognise now, the valuable role that existing native vegetation plays.

Services of vegetation to us are vast, and include: maintaining our diverse plant and faunal communities, stabilising soil, providing windblocks, providing shade, enhancing rainfall, habitat for native animals, shelter for cattle, storage of soil carbon, filtering of water pollutants, retention of aesthetic views, places for enjoyment of Australian ecosystem, cultural significance (indigenous and new Australian), and as part of intact regional ecosystems, supporting already threatened and endangered wildlife by extending the range of habitats.

For too long the environment has been treated as having little value in its own right. As our ecosystem services like productive soil, clean water supplies, unpolluted and thriving marine environments and climate (atmospheric system) begin to falter, we must now in 2016 recognise that our existence and ability to thrive relies upon their ongoing existence. The environment, including our vegetation has a value, even if it is still not 'valued' in our economic system.

As someone who has created native urban gardens in multiple climate zones, I know how much work it takes to reestablish soil health and the time it takes to grow trees.

And, as someone who through my work as an environmental practitioner, who sought to re-establish native vegetation on sites of mining exploration disturbance and on the external surfaces of waste rock dumps and completed tailings dams, I can definitively say that restoring SOIL health, and re-establishing complex vegetation communities on cleared / barren land is VERY difficult AND costly.

For me, priorities are protecting our native remnant vegetation, avoiding soil erosion, protecting restored areas of high habitat value, and particularly for the Great Barrier Reef ensuring that runoff to our reefs remains buffered by intact riparian zones.

And reiterating it is far more cost effective to keep the vegetation we have than try and regrow areas that have been damaged.

Protecting vegetation is in the interests of Queenslanders.

In 2016 and into the future - our future, my children's future, our farmer's future, our fishing industry's future, our tourism industry's future, nature's future, Queensland's economic future....'protecting vegetation is in the interests of Queenslanders'. I support the passing of this Bill.

Submitted by: Sandy McCathie

Signature: See attached jpg file.

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