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Dear Chair and Committee Members

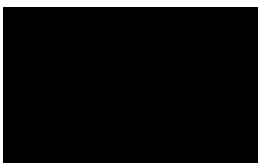
***Submission to Committee on Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016***

I consider it important that full legislative protection against tree clearing are reinstated immediately, and retrospectively if possible, to protect Queensland's residual critical habitats and water catchments and to prevent the release of further carbon dioxide into the atmosphere currently stored in the soils and wood of forest and woodland ecosystems.

The proposed Bill is particularly important as it will increase protection of the Great Barrier Reef from polluted runoff that results when riparian forests are cleared along the relevant coastal river. It will also protected damage of other watercourses and lakes through a reinstated riverine protection permit framework and ensure all impacts of land clearing are compensated for through an environmental offset scheme. It will also ensure that high value regrowth is protected on indigenous and freehold lands while high value or irrigated agriculture are not key reasons for permitting clearing applications.

I am particularly concerned that the announcement of the possibility of this bill without it successfully passing through parliament could have the perverted response of accelerating the rate of clearing in a rush to act before another attempt to limit land clearing is mounted. Therefore it is important the bill is successfully passed now and urge the Queensland parliament to pass the proposed bill in full. .

Yours sincerely



Glenda Orr