

From: [REDACTED]
To: [vminquiry](#)
Subject: Vegetation Management (reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Thursday, 28 April 2016 3:31:29 PM

Please accept my submission for *the Vegetation Management (reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*

In Queensland we have seen land clearing rates rise rapidly. In 2013/14 alone, nearly 300,000 hectares of native woodland were cleared. Much of this clearing was of vital habitats for some of our most vulnerable endangered species such as the Red Goshawk and the Koala.

This loss of habitat is not only putting huge pressure on the survival of the animals it also released some 36 million tonnes of Carbon into the atmosphere. This release of carbon continues to cause our climate to change. This not only causes more droughts (a massive blow for farmers year after year) but also has our oceans warming as well, which as we have just witnessed leads to massive coral bleaching with 93% of the Great Barrier Reef being affected.

Rampant unchecked land clearing is bad for habitats and our native animals, and the Great Barrier Reef. It also increases the impacts of climate change, which adversely affects our farmers whom we rely on for our food.

I feel this new bill is good for the following reasons.

- It will restore tree-clearing laws to how they were in 2012.
- It strengthens protections for Great Barrier Reef catchments, by restoring protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending the provisions from some to all of the Reef catchment areas.
- It removes the ability to get a permit to clear so called 'High Value Agriculture', stopping the large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
- It will restore the protection for the ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on both freehold and Aboriginal land.
- It removes the defence of claimed mistaken clearing, restoring the starting presumption that a landholder is responsible for all clearing that takes place on their property.
- It also makes a lot of the prospective legislation retrospective to March 17th 2016, which is a great attempt to deter the panic clearing and panic permit applications we have seen in the past.

Yours Sincerely

Iain Pritchard

[REDACTED]

Auchenflower QLD 4066

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