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April 28, 2016

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

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

The Koala Action Group has worked tirelessly for the past 30 years to secure the future for koalas in the Redlands area. A large part of our work has concentrated on the revegetation of habitat as it is widely acknowledged that habitat loss in the Redlands and other parts of Queensland is the reason for the koala's decline and other species of wildlife.

Our group strongly supports the reinstatement of the Vegetation Management Bill for the following reasons:

- The protection of habitat is critical for the future of the koala's survival and strong vegetation protection legislation is essential for this to be effective.
- The protection of the koala and other wildlife habitat will have both short and long term benefits to help mitigate impacts of erosion along waterways.
- It will help reduce climate change effects that pose an additional threat to koalas.

The Vegetation Management Bill reinstates a broader obligation for environmental offsets to be required for any residual impact, not just 'significant' impacts as is currently provided for in offsets legislations (which has led to only 1 offset being registered for vegetation impacts since 2014).

There is abundant scientific evidence available that proves that vegetation clearing creates negative impacts for regional ecosystems. Strong protection must be implemented to reverse the damage that is already done. Our wildlife relies on it for their survival.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Pointing – President
Koala Action Group Qld Inc.