

Jane Gray

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Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee,
I have for thirty years lived within a Queensland rural community. I have worked with Land Care, Society for Growing Australian Plants and numerous other environmental management groups with the aim of balancing conservation and agricultural business.

I have been greatly saddened to see the continual degradation of country through vegetation clearing, and having to find solutions to all the associated issues such as fragmentation of habitat, increasing number of threatened species, declining water quality, erosion, silting of waterways and so on. I should add greed, short term thinking associated with the extraction of natural resources, and poor governance; all have exasperated degradation.

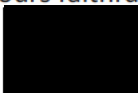
Locally, I still see clearing of vegetation, ignorant and indiscriminate. Sadly there is not a culture yet in the country that counter acts the old pioneer culture and the new culture of greed. This makes the Bill to restrengthen the state's tree clearing laws even more important!!! It is one of the few mechanisms we have to protect what vegetation there is.

I support the Bill and recommend its passing for the following reasons, the Bill will:

1. Remove the ability to get a permit to clear High Value Agriculture land. This will stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
2. Restore protection for ecologically important High Value Regrowth on freehold and Aboriginal land.
3. Restore protection of riparian areas and extend provision from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
4. Stop poor defence for mistaken clearing and restore the belief that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property.
5. Attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

I strongly support the Queensland land clearing reform Bill just introduced to Queensland Parliament to restrengthen the state's tree clearing laws. May Australians be led by governance that has a vision to restore health to our country side for the long term.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Jane Gray