

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [vminquiry](#)  
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As an educator and someone who has been involved in the care and management of Australia's native animals, and in the restoration of damaged ecosystems, I view with alarm the loss of habitat brought about by indiscriminate clearing of land for agriculture, mining and urban development. 'Loss of habitat' a simple phrase which hides a complexity of destruction of the web of life, from the smallest organisms in the soil to the forest giants, from the mangroves and corals of our reefs to the giants of the oceans, the web of life on which we depend totally for our existence.

Referring to the Great Barrier Reef, which is under threat from pollution and rising temperatures, Sir David Attenborough said, *"Do we really care so little about the Earth on which we live that we don't wish to protect one of its greatest wonders from the consequences of our behaviour?"*

I would add to that by saying, "Do we care so little about our future and that of future generations that we allow the destruction of ecosystems which provide clean air, clean water and our food resources, not to mention the destruction of our unique flora and fauna, which, apart from their intrinsic value, are of enormous economic value to this country."

All things are interconnected. Trees take up carbon dioxide, they give off oxygen, they transpire which leads to cloud formation and subsequently rain, they provide shelter to the soils and understorey plants, they prevent erosion, particularly on slopes and the banks of water courses, they provide food and shelter for myriad of creatures from the iconic koala to the tiny feathertail glider, from the Powerful Owl to the smallest invertebrate. Trees help mitigate the effects of rising temperatures – just move from the sun into the shade of a tree in summer to appreciate the difference. The services trees provide are invaluable.

I support the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* in the hope that it goes some way to redress the damage being currently done and encourages a more considered approach to the management of vegetation in Queensland.

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