

Tom Franz

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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Chair and Committee Members

RE: Submission to Committee on *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and other legislation amendment Bill 2016*

I am writing to give my full support to the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*. Amending changes previously made to the Act is an important step toward insuring a sustainable environmental and economic future for Queensland, I'll discuss these reasons below.

To add to the validity of my argument I'd like to share my background, I grew up in a small rural town in the Fassifern valley known for its intensive agricultural practices (i.e. dairy farming and high value cropping), I've also worked in the forestry sector in the same area trying to rehabilitate the damage previous generations have left. I'm now studying a masters of environmental management at the University of Queensland.

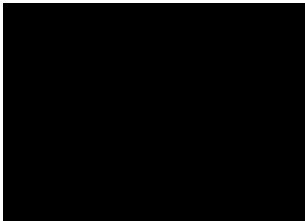
Having become increasingly aware of the poor land management practices of my home town and even my own farm, I've also become aware of the poor management practices of Queensland as a whole. I hate to see history repeat itself but it seemed to do just that when the Newman government made changes to the bill.

Impacts of broad scale clearing on Australia's very poor soils doesn't make a lot of sense, economically or environmentally. I acknowledge that Queensland has an obligation to progress economically, but I argue that allowing these practice of broad scale land clearing will be detrimental to the longevity of Queensland's economy (to the short-term benefit of beef producers), we should be adapting better approaches to land management not using outdated techniques when we have the tools to better manage our land. Clearing for high value agriculture is fraught with problems and open to exploitation, most land suitable for high value agriculture has already been cleared in the state, so strengthening of this section of the act will close this particular loop hole.

Regarding carbon emissions as a result of vegetation clearing, the only reason Australia as a nation reached its *Kyoto* targets was because of the *LULUCF* clause and land clearing laws introduced in NSW and QLD. Amending this *Act* has potential international ramifications and we've just heard that the federal labour party is planning to control land clearing through the *EPBC Act* as part of their climate plan.

So I'm pleading with you to look at the science and economic benefits and reinstate this act to avoid making Queensland a state of outdated unsustainable practices.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Franz