


From: 
To: [vminquiry](mailto:vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au)
Subject: Native vegetarian clearing.
Date: Friday, 29 April 2016 10:02:11 AM

vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Ms

Tree clearing since 2013 has seen the destruction of thousands of acres of valuable habitat in North Queensland. With the clearing of trees and the destruction of native shrubs and grasses comes the proliferation of weed species. We have witnessed this first hand in our own area where the nutritious protein rich spear grass has been replaced by the introduced grader grass which has not only 1/3 of the nutrition base but is a real bush fire risk.

Farmers are not the best judges of conservation values as the majority of them have little scientific training and see the environment not as having an intrinsic value in itself but what can be introduced and harvested from it. The great north development thrust is ill conceived as this area is one of the last wilderness areas left on the planet and in thirty years time the value will be in the trees and wilderness not the clear felled desert areas eaten out by cattle, and over farmed by failed crop growers.

Every tree is a valuable carbon sink and with the destruction of millions of trees that has gone on since the Newman Governments change of law we have seen our carbon footprint expand exponentially.

While considering broad acre tree clearing I would like the state to consider urban tree clearing laws to protect trees of significance in suburban settings.

When many new home owners move in, often trees are felled as they don't understand the cultural and amenity values of the leafy suburbs. Trees, hundreds of years old are felled in a couple of hours without any redress or appeal available as most councils allow landowners to do what they like on their suburban block. Each tree has a value of thousands of dollars as a carbon sink and pollution absorbent. As our cities grow more dense and air quality diminishes tree clearing laws in our cities are also a major issue apart from being a habitat and amenity loss.

We can't talk about saving the reef and clearing the land for agricultural purposes at the same time. The ancient soils are so thin they wash and blow away into river systems and onto the reef.

With youth unemployment in the Townsville region being as high as 30% I suggest we

enlarge our Green Army services with the proposed millions to be spent on an unwanted football stadium, being spent on environmental projects.

Thank you for your attention

Yours sincerely

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