

Committee Secretary  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
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28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Submission to the inquiry into the Vegetation Management  
(Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

I strongly support the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The removal of clearing controls by the Newman Government was a retrograde step. It immediately led to loss of threatened habitats and species. It greatly added to the already negative impact land use practices have on the Great Barrier Reef. By releasing millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, the escalation of tree clearing contributed to climate change, and leaves a legacy of increasing land degradation as temperatures inevitably increase under global climate change.

I strongly recommend this Bill be passed. It will stop broad scale clearing of remnant forests and woodlands. It will protect "high value agriculture" and "high value irrigated lands" from being cleared. It restores protection for Aboriginal land. It restores protection for ecologically important "high value regrowth". It restores protection for regrowth on riparian areas and extends this protection to all Great Barrier Reef catchments. It makes the landholder responsible for the clearing that takes place on their land by removing the defence of "mistaken clearing".

By providing transitional controls to deter panic clearing and panic applications to clear, the Bill gives a clear message that protection of native vegetation and the Great Barrier Reef, and reducing the impact of global climate change, are top priorities for the Queensland Government.

Yours sincerely



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