

Kerrie Fraser

East Brisbane 4169

To:
Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

Submission to Committee on *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*

Dear Chair and Committee Members,
I am writing in support of the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

As a member of the community concerned with the destruction of ecosystems, habitats and impact on wildlife and threatened species as a result of landclearing, I fear that without the passing of the above mentioned Bill, there will be irreversible consequences for our climate, wildlife, and ecosystems that we depend on for services and to support life on this planet. Landclearing releases millions of tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere, which is known to cause climate change. Australia has signed International agreements and committed to reduce its CO₂ emissions. Therefore, the regulation of landclearing and this Bill must be strongly supported to honour our commitments and help to avoid dangerous climate change. Queensland should not be able to return to the rate of broad scale landclearing that has occurred here in the past.

There are many significant impacts as a result of landclearing. The Great Barrier Reef is negatively impacted by landclearing in catchment areas, and the Queensland and Federal Governments have heavily committed to protecting the reef and are investing large amounts of money to support this through the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan, amongst other management initiatives. A commitment in the Reef 2050 plan is “practical regulatory controls on the clearing of remnant and high value regrowth vegetation” therefore, this Bill will assist the Queensland Government to meet that commitment. The restoration of protection for riparian areas will aid in reducing sediment runoff into the Great Barrier Reef catchment area, thereby reducing some pressure on an already struggling reef. Australia has also made international and national commitments to conserve its threatened species. The loss of habitats and ecosystems impacts on many threatened species and those vulnerable to landclearing. These species include the koala, palm cockatoo, golden-shouldered parrot, and the black-throated finch to name a few. Without adequate regulation, these species could be pushed closer to extinction.

I support the Bill as it proposes to tighten the vegetation management framework for controlling land clearing, has the ability to stop land-scale clearing of remnant woodlands through the removal of permits for High Value Agriculture, restores

protections for important regrowth, and ensures that landholders are held responsible for clearing that takes place on their land.

I trust my support for the *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* will be noted, and appreciate your serious consideration of the devastating consequences that will occur if this Bill is not supported. I encourage you to support this Bill.

Kind regards,

Kerrie Fraser