



Australian Marine Conservation Society

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Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email to: vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Director,

RE: Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

This letter forms our response to the Inquiry into the Queensland land clearing reform Bill.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is the leading NGO devoted solely to caring for Australia's oceans and their wildlife. AMCS has over 200,000 members and supporters in Australia whom we represent and work with on key marine issues facing the nation. Our focus includes working to advance the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, the establishment of a *National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA)*, to improve fisheries management in Australia and protect and recover threatened ocean wildlife. We also work to protect the coasts from inappropriate development and to tackle human induced climate change, mitigating its impacts on the marine environment.

Since relaxations in the Vegetation Management Act, tree clearing in Queensland has almost doubled - from 153,646ha to 296,324ha in the last 3 years. The Great Barrier Reef is already under pressure from poor water quality and severe bleaching from Global Warming. Tree clearing within the Great Barrier Reef catchments has exacerbated the poor water quality of the Reef and increased CO2 in the atmosphere.

AMCS would like to congratulate the Queensland Government on reintroducing legislation that will protect Queensland's vegetation and the Great Barrier Reef. AMCS supports the Bill especially:

- Removing the ability to get a permit High Value Agriculture, which will stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
- Restoring protection for High Value Regrowth on freehold and Aboriginal land.
- Restoring protection riparian areas and extending provisions to all six Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- Restoring the presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property.
- Setting the date to 17 March to deter panic clearing.

Sincerely



Dr Lissa Schindler

Great Barrier Reef Campaigner
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