

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and other Legislation Amendments Bill 2016
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Research Director

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Parliament House

Brisbane 4000

Submission on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and other Legislation Amendments Bill 2016

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members

My name is Ruth Lipscombe and I live in [REDACTED] Innisfail ,Tropical North Queensland ,4060.

Over the last forty years I have belonged to the following Environmental Groups in The Northern Territory and Far North Queensland:

- Johnstone River Landcare
- Innisfail Community Revegetation
- Innisfail Community Gardens
- Society for Growing Australian Plants
- Cassowary Coast Alliance
- various Cassowary Groups
- Ma :mu Bush Tucker Garden
- Cairns Treeforce
- Trees for Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands
- Daradgee Environment Centre
- Cairns and Far North Environment Centre
- past Regional Area Representative of The Natural Heritage Trust. Our Committee was responsible for allocating a LOT of money through organizations like Landcare, various Agricultural groups as well as individual farmers for Riparian Revegetation and innovative land management strategies.

I fully support the Queensland's Government's move to reinstate sustainable land management legislation.

Land clearing ,as legislated by the Liberal National Party in Queensland has a drastic effect on our wildlife ; the quality of our soils; the overall health of our Great Barrier Reef from soil erosion and a believe that unsustainable tree clearing could possibly increase the intensity of droughts.

I have lived on a sloping block of land adjacent to the Coral Sea and the mouth of the Johnstone River for nearly 20 years .Therefore I have been able to observe 'first hand' the decline in the high ecological and cultural value of our rivers,wetlands and marine ecosystems.

An old Aboriginal friend, [REDACTED] has been adamant for the 36 years I have known him that we cannot, and MUST not separate the health of the land from the water in all our thinking and the laws we pass.

I was appalled at the number of riparian revegetation

sites, largely funded by Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) money ,which were bulldozed following the LNP 's decision to allow an unsustainable increase in land clearing.

Some of the results of this irresponsible legislation has been 1) a sharp decrease in food plants for the cassowaries ,flying foxes and sugar gliders.A noticeable decline in the diversity of rainforest species is being documented by environment groups eg Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT)

In the years 2013/2014 approximately 300,000 hectares of land have been cleared.Visible signs of erosion has been reported by farmers who recognise the relationship between clearing and the increased risk of land degradation.

Following most rainfall events I witness the movement of soil from our cleared riverbanks to the Great Barrier Reef. A neighbour's son has documented evidence ,taken by a drone ,from my front verandah.I believe Dr S Miles has copies of this distressing sight.

It is obvious that we must do all we can to minimize

'land use' impacts on waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.

Hopefully the current Qld. Parliamentary inquiry and reinstatement vote on legislation to manage vegetation clearing will reverse the negative effects the present LNP bill is having.

Ruth Lipscombe

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