

From: [REDACTED]
To: [vminquiry](#)
Subject: Queensland Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Friday, 29 April 2016 2:53:30 PM
Attachments: [Queensland Vegetation Management \(Reinstatement\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.pdf.pdf](#)

Key points include in my submission:

- My name is Sue Laird.
- My objectives are to assist with my volunteer work, in bushcare work with a groups called “Francis and Todds Road, Lawnton bushcare group” and “Rovers Bushcare” and my volunteer work and membership of , “Pine Rivers Koala Care Association Inc”. “Moreton Bay Koala Rescue” and “Moreton Bay Eco Alliance”.
- Case examples about land clearing are:-
 - 1) “Lawnton Lakes” (this was significant koala habitat as per MBRC mapping) where there were numerous local frogs, flora and fauna only known to the area and about 20 resident koalas there (which I had mapped on the MBRC koala map before the land clearing). The residents around this clearing, have told me that, the people clearing the land killed the koalas and then buried them under tons of soil. The local Pool at Lawnton had terrible trouble with the pumps breaking down and the thundering sound of the trucks constantly harassing the parents getting their children to the local pool for lessons was a nightmare. (Let alone the Special School, where they eventually received flashing lights to stop the speeding trucks). This particular site was also menacing with trucks and trailers allowed to traverse through the local streets with dust leaking from their trucks to and from their destination, speeding along all the back streets of Lawnton and Bray Park, until the developer was satiated enough that they had carried enough soil to the “Lawnton Lakes” site. It had to be built up so high along Lawnton Pocket Road, Lawnton, as the land floods and every resident knows it. The existing residents opposite this site are impacted with flooding and are having trouble with their negotiations, which I have photos. The developer has land that it has promised to Council, but as yet the permission to hand it over officially keeps being put back, so Koala rescuers find it difficult to go in and health check the resident koalas left along the river, stuck on an embankment in overbrowsed trees that are not enough to feed the amount of koalas there. They did get special state government permission to move some koalas, but that did not work. They were moved to Rob Akers dog park area, but of course that is under threat now with possible road through there to attack that small amount of koalas living amongst the dogs there.
 - 2) The Todds Road large land clearing from Todds Road all the way back to the river, where there were quite a number of koalas are now threatened by that land clearing with many koala trees cleared (some not even on the property holders land, photo in Pine Rivers Press). These large koala food trees have since been replanted along the footpath, but of course it will take years for a koala (if any left will be able to eat the leaf) This is low-lying land, but it was approved. Everyone knows this land floods.
 - 3) Acreage on Francis Road threatened with subdivision for the proposed University. This land has koala trees and it seems that property developers have squeezed each block to sway them into selling up. The road has been upgraded in front of these soon to be-cleared properties, but the road does not seem much different, except after my request to council not to clear the trees on the island, that mostly all of the paper barks have disappeared in the last week and the Hoop Pines have been trimmed up, so that any new purchases of the sub-divisions will have a “view” of the park.
 - 4) There was another project at Bob McDonald Koala reserve on Francis Road that had a very expensive drain put in, apparently to capture rubbish from across the other side of Francis Road Sporting Complex. Instead of Council clearing the drains from Netball and football weekends , they built a drain on the koala habitat side . I am not sure that it actually does anything.
 - 5) There is rarely a koala spotter on site in koala habitat. I was at the Alma Park Zoo clearing and phoned council, who said “supposedly there was” but there was only a tractor clearing trees and me

with my camera filming. The same goes for the Keith Road/Alma Road area of clearing in a flooded listed of MBRC map. Koala, and other natives were cleared (no koala spotter, as concerned residents and I met with council with our evidence and it fell on deaf ears) and housing built. Council put in man made drainage and any work done by Dakabin Bushcare group volunteer Sunday work was destroyed by no community consultation.

- 6) Moreton Bay Rail Link. It is insane that so much land was cleared so quickly with devastating consequences to the flora and fauna. How did Environmental Protection disappear overnight for the Laceys Creek? How is 277 koala deaths ok? Surely this could have been handled better? Where were the koala spotters? How did this happen? Isn't the koala a protected species. Whether in a tree, on the ground, isn't there a duty of care, even for a tree clearing vegetation machine?
- Reasons why I care about protecting our natural vegetation :
 - protecting the koalas, and other threatened species of concern to me, because when you rescue them, you have a connection to their well-being;
 - the impact of tree clearing on increasing drought in our already drought stricken state – it has now been proven that the more trees we have, the more rain we have; For example:
 - I was there the day that Alma Park Zoo was cleared. It was listed as “Rainforest” on google maps and it rained after I left the clearing to pick up my kids from school. It does not do that anymore. There was also land clearing up further on the corner of Alma Road and Keith Road in very low-lying, flood-prone land where there were paper barks and other koala food trees there and it was totally demolished and very dense housing built very quickly.
 - the impact of tree clearing on climate change – tree clearing causes millions of tonnes of CO2 to be released into our atmosphere; surely there can be a better and smarter way to live with trees and not clear trees, chip them and concrete what was natural environmental habitat.
 - tree clearing near catchments can cause land erosion and run off into our river catchments – the erosion and run off caused by clearing along the Great Barrier Reef catchment banks is a leading cause of impacts to our Reef; and
 - as listed above other issues that concern me is the “Lawnton Lakes” and “Todds Road” developments and the impact that these clearings have on North Pine River.
- Support the passing of the bill, to protect Queensland’s ecosystems and wildlife. This bill is important particularly because it:
 - reinstates the protection of high value regrowth on freehold and indigenous land;
 - removes provisions which permit clearing applications for high value agriculture and irrigated agriculture;
 - broadens protection of riparian vegetation, especially in the Great Barrier Reef catchments of Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef;
 - reinstates the application of the riverine protection permit framework to the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring; and
 - reinstates a broader requirement for environmental offsets to be required for any residual impact, not just ‘significant’ impacts as is currently provided for in offsets legislation (and has led to only 1 offset being registered for vegetation impacts since 2014).

I hope that the environment can be more important for our eco-system and our well-being as living breathing creatures on this planet.

Yours sincerely

Electronically signed by *S Laird* (*original signed PDF attached*)

Sue Laird

[REDACTED]

Bray Park 4500

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