

RECEIVED

29 APR 2016

AEC

Submission No. 620

Paul Sharman

Mount Crosby 4306

25th April 16

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear sir/madam

I am writing to state my support for the new Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and believe that this is a legislative instrument well worth bringing into force and one that will benefit Queenslanders as a whole, that it will bring into effect most needed reforms to allow for greater protection of our environment.

Allowing already significantly reduced habitat land to be reduced further and thereby increasing the threats of further species loss seems too great a risk to not tighten laws on land clearing practices. Nor does it seem worth the risk of posing further disturbance to Great Barrier Reef catchment areas more than that, which has already been done. The bill is good in that it reduces critical habitat loss and addresses measures of Reef protection by extending provisions to the Great Barrier Reef catchment lands.

Our atmosphere can clearly do without further increases of CO2 levels which land clearing significantly contributes to.

I am in support of the bill because it removes the practice of clearing vegetation with the justification of doing so for the purpose of carrying out so called High Value Agriculture practices and also because it places greater responsibility onto the farmer for their at times questionable actions of mistaken clearing practices. I am also in support of the potential for restoring protection of ecologically important regrowing woodlands.

When is enough enough? There is a finite degree to which we can interfere with the natural environment before we have none left to do so with. Generations before us have enjoyed the economic benefits of being able to profiteer from the resources our natural environment has to offer, more or less as they choose, and without serious consideration to their being limitations to the resources. However now it would seem foolish to carry on as we have done so in the past and it is perhaps wiser to accept that sooner or later an end to any environmental degradation practice is inevitable, either by choice of ending the practice or by their being no further natural recourse to pillage. At such a point, however it is arrived, business will adjust to managing affairs accordingly. Surely the wiser alternative is in allowing that scenario to be sooner rather than later; thereby being in a position of managing sustainable farming practices with what land is already allocated as such, whilst having relatively significant tracks of natural habitat intact along side, which surely will serve to benefit.

Yours sincerely

Paul Sharman