



27 April 2016

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

Dear Chair and Committee Members

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

I write on behalf of the members of this organisation, formerly known as the Society for Growing Australian Plants, which has over 700 members state-wide, and branches throughout the state.

Amongst our stated aims is “to promote the conservation of our native plants and their habitats”, which is essential for the maintenance of biodiversity in all types of ecosystems. Queensland’s flora is the most diverse amongst the Australian states with over 12 500 species, roughly 50% of Australia’s plant species.

We firmly believe that relevant legislation should offer best practice laws to ensure protection of plants especially those of conservation significance, and the amendment of the Vegetation Management Bill is a means to help achieve this goal. The threat to our native plants’ sustainable future has increased in recent years through escalating land clearing, and the threat of continued climate change. The conservation of the plants’ natural habitat is crucial for the long term survival of our plants and their dependent fauna and the ecosystem.

We also recognise the effect that tree clearing has on catchments, causing land degradation and run-off into coastal marine waters. We recognise as well the impact that tree clearing has on climate change, with elevated levels of CO₂ being released into the earth’s atmosphere.

Being interested in our native plants, we are concerned about the ever increasing numbers of threatened species, and the increasing threats to their existence which includes land clearing. Over the years, members of our group have witnessed well known and cherished populations of native plants disappearing from the wild because of land clearing and also weed invasion, often in adjoining land to that cleared and then over-run with weed species. We’ve also witnessed remnant areas of native vegetation containing newly discovered plant species, hanging onto a perilous existence with a much reduced population.

Continued land clearing creates fragmentation of plant populations, resulting in impacts upon genetic exchange and wildlife habitat connectivity. While less than 5% of the state’s land area is National Parks, it is important that appropriate and effective legislation is in place to manage the remaining uncleared and quality regrowth areas.

We support the passing of the bill, to restore the appropriate and responsible protection of Queensland’s natural ecosystems, including the dependent flora and fauna.





The bill is important because it reinstates the protection of high value regrowth on freehold and indigenous land, and removes provisions which permit certain clearing application exemptions. Most importantly, it will improve the protection of riparian vegetation, which will have improved outcomes for coastal marine habitats such as the Great Barrier Reef.

On behalf of Native Plants Queensland, I ask that this bill be passed so that there will be a far greater level of protection for Queensland's native plants and their habitats.

Yours sincerely,

Ian McMaster

Native Plants Queensland

President

email@npq.org.au

(Authorised by the NPQ Region Council at the meeting on 28 April 2016)

