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29 04 15

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
[yminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:yminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir

**RE: Inquiry into the Queensland Land clearing Reform Bill**

The Logan and Albert Conservation Association INC supports stricter laws to protect all vegetation in Queensland, including remnant, regrowth and not of concern vegetation. There has been an unacceptable loss of valuable habitats in Queensland as a result of changes to the Vegetation management Act made under the Campbell Newman LNP government. The Logan and Albert Conservation Association INC provided evidence in the Parliamentary Inquiries that were made prior to the LNP changes to the Vegetation Management Act. Our concerns were not addressed and were ignored at that time.

I am concerned about land clearing because

- It threatens our remaining wilderness areas in Queensland e.g. northern Queensland and other areas.
- Huge impacts will occur from proposed extensive clearing of vegetation for Priority Development Areas ( e.g. Greater Flagstone) , State Development Areas, clearing of Crown land
- It causes the loss of habitats and biodiversity, and it has negative impacts on iconic threatened species such as the koala .
- Loss of old growth vegetation, loss of high value regrowth vegetation
- Vegetation connectivity between areas of remnant vegetation and other areas of vegetation regarded as not of concern is not being protected. This connectivity is critical under climate change scenarios and should not be ignored by all levels of Government.
- Impacts from tree clearing have a negative impact on waterways and catchments including the Great Barrier Reef from Great Barrier Reef catchments.
- It causes climate change and releases of millions of tonnes CO2 .
- It has intergenerational equity impacts for future generations.

LACA supports the Bill because it:

1. Removes the ability to get a permit to clear for so-called High Value Agriculture, and thus stop large-scale clearing of remnant woodlands.
2. Restores protections for ecologically important regrowing woodlands ('High Value Regrowth') on freehold and Aboriginal land.
3. Restores protections for trees next to riverbanks ('riparian areas') and extending provisions from some to all Great Barrier Reef catchments.
4. Removes the defence of claimed mistaken clearing, and restores the *starting* presumption that a landholder is responsible for clearing that takes place on their property.

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**Logan & Albert Conservation Association**

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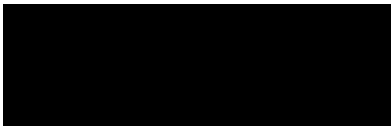
5. It makes much of the prospective legislation retrospective to 17 March, in an attempt to deter panic clearing and panic applications.

LACA would like to propose other areas to be addressed to ensure a greater management and protection of vegetation and biodiversity in Queensland beyond 2016 –

1. The immediate reinstatement of referral agency advice by EHP and DNR and the Dept of Science and Information Technology and Innovation.
2. Frameworks and legislation such as Regional Plans, Coastal Plans,
3. More sophisticated reporting of vegetation and related mapping products (essential habitat mapping) is critical.
4. Current advances such as green fauna infrastructure, Climate Change Programs, climate Refugia and climate change corridors , Biodiversity Planning corridors , biodiversity Hotspots and Ecosystem Services/NRM Plans need to be incorporated into policy and legislation at all levels of government.
5. High value regrowth vegetation protection and remapping
6. Koala habitat protection
7. Urgent Protection of Vegetation within Urban footprint areas e.g. remnant and regrowth vegetation
8. Protection of coastal wetland and coastal vegetation is needed.
9. Reversal of self assessable and as of right clearing because of negative impacts, loss of connectivity and biodiversity .
10. Reversal of Brigalow boioregion clearing is needed.
11. The review of PMAV process including application, advertising, objection, categories, inspection, remapping and registers.
12. The reintroduction of a Greenspace Strategy into the VMA and Regional Plans is essential.

Please contact me if you have further questions about this matter on ph 3297 0624.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Page (BA Hons Dip Ed M Env Mgt)  
President  
Logan and Albert Conservation Association  
PO BOX 557 Beaudesert QLD 4285



*Since its inception in 1989, LACA has worked with community, council, industry, and government to develop understanding, commitment and actions for more sustainable living.*

*LACA aims...*

- *To play an active role in the protection and enhancement of the environment.*
- *To promote the concept of environmental sustainability as an essential criterion of planning for development.*
- *To educate and inform the community on all aspects of conservation.*
- *To research and report on current and proposed activities likely to affect the local environment.*

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- *To encourage the widest possible public consultation and informed debate on matters of conservation and environmental importance to the local community.*

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