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Dear Chair and Committee Members

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

I am a concerned Sunshine Coast resident. I am also a member of the Save the Steve Irwin Way Forest group, but this submission is a personal one.

Queensland's environmental laws are already inadequate and it is imperative that this government achieve greater protection for native forests and the environment.

In addition, not doing so is contrary to ALP pre-election promises.

The current rate at which deforestation is occurring in Queensland is unacceptable. "Jobs and growth" will not serve us once climate change becomes irreversible.

We need recognition that all elements of our natural environment are part of a complex system that is crucial to life on planet earth and is now on the brink of collapse.

I understand that we need cultural change to catalyse this recognition on a government level; however the cultural change is already underway within the Australian public. We are just waiting for our governments to follow suit.

The onus is now on the current Queensland government to acknowledge how crucial it is to preserve our native forests and to legislate accordingly.

We look to the ALP to make this happen NOW. Passing this Bill would be a good start.

Yours sincerely  
Mariko McConnell