



# CAPE YORK ALLIANCE

Protecting the Rights and Interests of ALL Land Owners in Cape York

*"United we Stand for the People of Cape York Peninsula..."*

*One People, One voice, One cause*

*Enough is enough, we want a fair go all round"*



29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

To the Agriculture and Environment Committee

[vmquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:vmquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au)

**Re: Proposed Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

## Background

The Cape York Alliance is a recently formed entity whose principal purpose is to promote unity and respect amongst the people of Cape York in order to protect and advocate for their rights and interests. We facilitate representation of all people in Cape York including, traditional land owners, landholders, business owners, agriculturalists, councils, other groups and individuals who reside in or have an interest in Cape York and the objectives of the Cape York Alliance in order to advance the wellbeing and livelihood of all Cape York people and or their interests.

At the Laura Summit held in November 2015, it was determined that the Cape York Alliance would spearhead the development of a grassroots Cape York Regional Development Plan and to then make representation to government to enact this plan which would seek to harness the economic growth of the people of Cape York Peninsula.

For too long, we have been regarded as the poor cousin in need of welfare and support, and unfortunately the green and extreme conservation movement, with their "blinkered" campaign to prevent any development on the Peninsula, has used political pressure to isolate Cape York and suppress the interests and wellbeing of our residents leading to poverty and division across the region. Cape York has been the environmental conscience of Australia and the rest of the world whilst the right of the 16,500 residents to a positive and productive future on Cape York Peninsula and enhanced livability of their communities are issues of social justice which cannot be disregarded. People are a necessary part of a healthy landscape.

Agriculture (farmers) provide food to put on the Nation's tables and the food security across the world should be paramount to the survival of mankind, as a race. The farmers are the best conservationists, they know and love their land and they wish to preserve it for their future generations sustainability. It is the farmer who knows what is best for his land, not some external emotive group who have no knowledge of land management and sustainability. It should be noted that clearing done by farmers is done with the environment front of mind and is not done unless there is the appropriate research, safeguards and conditions are attached and the extent of clearing is only ever a small % of the entire lease. Wild life corridors and environmentally important areas are never impacted.

The economic potential of the Cape is yet to be realised. For local people, unlocking the economic value of the land is central to the right to build an economy. The only way that people will overcome disadvantage and build their capacity and self-determination is by participating in sustainable economic development.

The Cape York Alliance is opposed to these proposed changes and urges the Queensland Government and the Agricultural and Environment Committee to **LISTEN** to the people of Cape York and not the Green groups who have lobbied the current government to return to the draconian laws of the past which are hindering the economic development of Cape York.

We urge the Queensland Government and the Committee to please take note of the science on this issue and not the current mapping which has errors and is projecting incorrect information. We urge the Queensland Government to protect the rights of farmers to do what they need to do on their land and not impede their livelihoods and kill the economy of our State.

Yours sincerely

Rod Burke  
Chairman