


From: 
To: ym inquiry
Subject: Vegetation Management Act:
Date: Friday, 22 April 2016 10:12:52 AM

22nd April 2016
Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Members of the Inquiry Committee,

I write this submission to voice my support for the proposed ***Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016***.

This is a most important Bill for the future of Queensland's remaining native forests and woodlands, as was recognised in 2009 when changes to the Vegetation Management Act were introduced. Three years later, AgForce stated that *"Farmers and graziers have adapted extremely well to landmark Vegetation Management laws introduced in 2009."* This statement serves to negate current knee-jerk reactions of some in the agricultural sector who decry the reintroduction of the laws as being "anti-farmer". The outdated practice of clear-felling huge areas of land for grazing and cropping has proven to be counter-productive, with resulting loss of top-soil and fertility, reduced soil moisture retention, loss of bio-diversity, salinity problems and negative impact on climate change.

Our precious Great Barrier Reef is also under threat from sediment pollution from cleared land as well as agrichemical pollution, not to mention climate change which is exacerbated by land clearing.

I quote the words of Dr Martin Taylor, an international expert in conservation science, who is extremely concerned about land clearing laws in Australia.

"As with carbon pollution, the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars being spent to reduce water pollution in the reef is undermined by lax laws that allow clearing to escalate, eroding soils and making sediment pollution worse.It makes no sense at all."

As a tax payer of 42 years, I find it outrageous that the government with one hand grants out funds to conserve the reef, while the other hand passes laws that threaten the reef.

I agree with Dr Taylor: *"It is far more efficient to prevent environmental damage than to try to reverse it later."*

Bring back laws that should never have been rescinded in the first place.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Brett

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