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STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee**

**From:** Rowena Foong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 April 2013 4:15 PM  
**To:** State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
**Subject:** URGENT SUBMISSION - Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013

FOR THE URGENT ATTENTION OF  
Mr David Gibson and Members of the State Development, Infrastructure  
and Industry Committee

**I am writing to strongly disagree to the Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013. Here outlined are some very valid and important reasons why.**

- The proposed Bill will effectively overturn the 2006 ban on broadscale land clearing of remnant vegetation using new loopholes for High Value Irrigated Agriculture (including cattle pasture), High Value Cropping/Horticulture, and “Environmental Clearing” which turns out to include flood control works. This is unacceptable, and every step must be taken to protect and enhance our ecosystems, as our own health and long term prosperity depends on them in ways that The Committee must surely be aware of.
- The proposed Bill would allow the Minister to make decisions without the NECESSARY process of assessment, public consultation or even consultation of experts or other departments and this is completely inappropriate.
- The proposed Bill represents some of the most significant backwards steps in environmental protection in Australian history - a disaster for a society that is supposed to be aware of climate change, loss of biodiversity, issues of toxic waste, high levels of extinction of diverse species, water quality, and so on. With that awareness, we have an immediate responsibility to take actions that ensure the protection and enhancement of our ecosystems.

- The proposed Bill would open up at least 700,000 hectares of 23+ year old forests currently protected by virtue of containing endangered ecosystems, endangered species, near watercourses or wetlands and slopes above 12% on freehold and indigenous land to clearing once again.
- The proposed Bill will impact on the Wild Rivers provisions which is completely unacceptable.
- The proposed Bill breaks an election promise by Newman to retain the current level of protection under the VMA.

There are many more reasons why this Bill must not go ahead. We welcome The Committee to connect with us, the community, in seeking assistance and information about the state of our environment. Every decision made must take full responsibility for all long term impacts on human health, which is undeniably linked to a healthy environment and our future.

Yours sincerely, Rowena Foong.