

Sub No 64



**State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee**

**From:** Scenic Rim Wildlife <scenicrim@wildlife.org.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 April 2013 4:51 PM  
**To:** State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
**Subject:** Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013 (Qld)

re: Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013 (Qld)

Scenic Rim Wildlife members recognise the need for genuine agricultural improvement, but are also in a position to see the alarming reduction of native vegetation and threats to our biodiversity in recent decades, and the potential for accelerated and irreversible loss in future years.

The removal of regulations on clearing of high value regrowth is especially short-sighted. There is much that could be done to improve agriculture on existing cleared land before further land currently harbouring high-value regrowth would be needed. At a time when threats of climate change and expanding human populations demands more attention be given to habitat restoration, buffer zones and wildlife corridors, the potential loss of many thousands of hectares of high-value regrowth would be a very backward step.

The determination of the conservation value of any particular habitat fragment is highly complex. Most landowners are not sufficiently trained in ecology or conservation biology to make the final decisions on whether it is acceptable to clear. While recognising there have been communication problems between landowners and government officials, sometimes resting in decisions that are unwise and unfair to landowners, this is largely due to the complexity of the issue, and what is needed is more communication, not such a broad lifting of regulation.

**We urge the government not to implement such drastic changes to the legislation, but instead to provide for better communication between government, landowners and experts in both ecology and agriculture to achieve optimal outcomes for both food production and biodiversity conservation**

Yours sincerely

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