

19 March 2018

To: Committee Secretary,  
State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane, QLD 4000.

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Dear Committee members,

I live in Townsville, North Queensland, which currently suffers from a very high unemployment rate and associated social problems. The local economy is highly dependent on Government decisions about the way investment and productivity is generated.

On this basis, I would like to express my support for any legislation to cease, reduce or deter destruction of native woodlands and wildlife and other parts of the natural environment.

In this context, I support the passing of the "*Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*." In particular, the natural assets of far North Queensland need to be protected and nurtured for future benefits, not only as amenity for locals, but also for future economic benefits. For example, I have Asian friends who have highlighted the attraction of Australia's natural beauty, open clear skies, Great Barrier Reef, unique wildlife and clean water ways. Once lost, these are expensive and difficult, or impossible, to recover.

Queensland has the opportunity to lead the way in a natural assets industry. Tourism is the most obvious and immediate way to leverage the value of natural environmental assets.

Other opportunities include industries which benefit from the authenticity of natural assets, such as the film making industry, conference and events industries, the retirement industry and the arts, culture and sporting industries. In addition, Queensland natural assets lend themselves to a renewable energy industry, Indigenous culture related industries and bioscience and technology development underpinned by scientific research into ecological process and materials. In an ever automating era of reducing job opportunities, these sectors are human labour centric.

In the broader sense, destruction of natural vegetation is no longer seen as progress. The Newman Government mistook the mood of most Queenslanders in rolling back previous land clearing restrictions. It's time for Queensland to move back towards the modern era and conserve our valuable natural assets.

I believe Legislation can play an important role in shaping attitudes to natural assets, and with it, how other countries view Queensland and the integrity of our exports. It is important to have legislation in place that demonstrates how much we value our natural and ecological heritage.

Yours sincerely,

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