



KURANDA

conservation

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Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: sdnraidc@parliament.qld.gov.au

**SUBMISSION TO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018 (VMOLA Bill) INQUIRY**

We live adjacent to the World Heritage Wet Tropics Area. While the WHWTA is protected, the area surrounding it is not, and this threatens the integrity of the protected area. Our region is under increasing threat of residential and agricultural development. We are very pleased you are considering modifying the current unsatisfactory laws to better protect our precious landscape and the habitat it provides for our unique wildlife. Our particular interest is cassowaries.

We strongly support the following elements of the VMOLA Bill:

1. **Removal of the ability to obtain permits for high value agriculture and high value irrigated agriculture** as too much valuable and important natural habitat is lost to so called 'high value agriculture'.
2. **Reintroduction of the requirement to obtain Riverine Protection Permits** to better regulate damaging clearing in watercourses (*see clauses 51 and 52*). it is imperative that all watercourses are protected;
3. **Phasing out existing Area Management Plans** which have allowed significant clearing under lower regulation across Queensland; (*see clause 14*)
4. **Extended protections of regrowth vegetation near watercourses across Great Barrier Reef catchments, to reduce damaging runoff**, including the Barron Catchment as well as Eastern Cape York, Fitzroy and Burnett-Mary catchments which were not protected under the VM Act currently. (*see clauses 133 and 38*)
5. **improved protection of 'high value regrowth vegetation';**
6. **Tightening of the definition of 'thinning' (now known as 'managing thickened vegetation')** is supported. The Bill now requires that thinning activities must 'maintain ecological processes and prevent loss of diversity.

Jax Bergersen
Secretary/Co-ordinator

Innovation in Conservation

Innovators are leaders, not followers