



BirdLife Southern Queensland
PO Box 375
Annerley QLD 4103

22 March 2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
sdnraidc@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE: Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

On behalf of the 1000 members of BirdLife Southern Queensland and over 80,000 supporters of BirdLife Australia we would like to express our support for the "Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018", but feel that further amendments are required in order to provide adequate protections for Queensland's disappearing forests and bushland.

Without amendments to strengthen the proposed Bill, there will not be adequate protection for Queensland's remnant and high conservation value regrowth vegetation.

We are relieved to see that this bill will no longer allow for clearing of large areas of forest and bushland for "high value agriculture." We also welcome the removal of the thinning self-assessable code, and the revision regarding fodder self-assessable code.

However, there remain a number of loopholes that would allow for extensive ongoing thinning. Allowances for fodder harvesting remain. The definition of HCV areas need to be strengthened to include riparian areas and threatened species' habitats. The forest and bushland in Category X also requires protection if on-going clearing rates are to be reduced substantially.

Unless these remaining issues are addressed we feel that clearing will continue at unacceptable levels.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Hoyle".

Judith Hoyle | Convenor. Mobile: [REDACTED]
BirdLife Southern Queensland
PO Box 375
Annerley Q 4103
southernqld@birdlife.org.au | birdlife.org.au
ABN 75 149 124 774
birds are in our nature