

Mrs Janenne Kornfeld

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

Dear Committee,

**Submission to Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
(‘VMOLA Bill’) inquiry**

I write as a sixth generation Queenslander to sincerely request that you support the ***Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*** to help address the crisis we have in this state, particularly loss of native vegetation, species extinction and degradation of the Great Barrier Reef.

I hold a science degree in Australian Environmental Studies so am well aware of the impact of our land use practices and policies.

Having lived on the agricultural plains of the Darling Downs in the 1980’s, I’ve seen first-hand the devastation caused by broad scale vegetation clearing. The ugly deep erosion gullies which were carved into the land, huge cracks in the earth during dry periods, and severely depleted soil, remain vivid in my mind. The rarity of native mammals and paucity of many species of native plants and birds gave evidence to the destructive nature of our agricultural system. I longed to see areas of diverse native vegetation providing home to a wealth of native species, and helping to preserve the soil and waterways.

Australia has lost more plants and mammals to extinction than any other nation and has more threatened animals than 98% of the world’s countries. This is a disgusting statistic, and one which we need immediate effective legislation to ameliorate.

It is disturbing to hear how so much of our rural land is being bought by foreign companies, While this may be immediately lucrative to the few landholders who are selling out, it can be of little good to Australians in the long-term. What do we really gain by destroying the sub-tropical forests and bushland in northern Qld for the sake of some huge multinational companies who want to sell beef to China and SE Asia?

These companies won’t care about conserving our wildlife or habitats. Just look at the destruction they have wrought in their own countries! **Putting strict laws in place to stave off the worst aspects of land clearing becomes essential.**

We simply cannot continue to see this country as an economic “resource” open to every business opportunity to reap and plunder for some short term profit, mostly for the benefit of relatively few parties

I can only trust that common sense and the desire to responsibly manage this land for future generations will see the ***Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*** be passed in parliament without delay. I also support the suggestions put forth by EDO Qld, which address some weaknesses in this bill, and ask you to take every opportunity to strengthen its scope and effectiveness by adopting these suggested amendments / inclusions.

Yours sincerely

Janenne Kornfeld