

21 March 2018

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Review of Vegetation Management and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Wildcare Australia Inc is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the rescue and care of sick, injured and orphaned Queensland wildlife.

Our volunteers have seen firsthand the devastating effects that inadequate vegetation management legislation has had on our local wildlife and the environment.

We are hopeful that the Queensland Government will stand by its election promise to drive down excessive clearing rates and introduce legislation to protect remnant and high conservation value regrowth vegetation as we believe that it is essential that the State's land clearing laws are significantly strengthened.

We note that the proposed Bill has addressed issues of concern including:-

- Removing High Value Agriculture and High Value Irrigated Agriculture as an allowable purpose.
- Removal of the 'thinning' self-assessable code
- Revision of the fodder self-assessment code
- Redefining High Conservation Value Regrowth

However from information available, the Bill does not meet the Queensland Government's election commitment to 'introduce legislation to protect remnant and high conservation value regrowth vegetation'. The Bill appears deficient in:-

- Thinning is still allowed via several means including Development Approval.
- Fodder harvesting is still allowed under Self Assessment and is not linked to "necessity" or "drought". It is allowable to clear an "of concern" regional ecosystem under some circumstances.
- Not all of the promised changes to the definition of High Conservation Value have been made. The Queensland Government promised that the High Conservation Value regions would be redefined to include "riparian areas, threatened species habitat and areas where landscape integrity is at risk". Riparian areas have been excluded and there appears to be gaps in the protection of threatened species habitat protection.



- The area of regrowth remnant and High Conservation Value Regrowth in Category X and PMAVS is not known and is not currently protected and does not appear to have been mapped. Legislation must include protection for any of the forest and bushland currently mapped exempt to ensure that overall clearing rates will be reduced.

We cannot see how broad scale clearing and the protection of remnant and High Conservation Value regrowth forests and bushland will be protected unless the Bill addresses these issues.

We respectfully request that the Queensland Government re-address these deficiencies to ensure that they fulfil the election commitment made to the residents of Queensland. We believe that most residents believe that the Government should substantially strengthen the Bill and associated policies to ensure the protection of our natural environment and wildlife.

Yours faithfully



Karen Scott
President

