

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: VIC
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 12:48:04 PM

To the Queensland Parliamentary Committee members,

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to native vegetation protection laws. Native vegetation is critical for biodiversity and the protection of iconic animals like the koala, it is also critical for water and soil retention, productivity, mitigating climate change and protecting the Great Barrier Reef from erosion.

The gutting of native vegetation protection by the previous Government led to a tripling of land-clearing rates across Queensland and put us in the unenviable position of having one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world.

The Government is to be commended for substantially repairing the legislation as it stands. However the changes should go further to meet the Government's commitments and our global obligations with regards to emissions, biodiversity and the protection of World Heritage Areas.

I would urge the committee to ensure that the legislation puts an end to broadscale land clearing and the protection of all remnant and High Conservation Value vegetation as promised. This must end the bulldozing of forest and bushland for fodder harvesting and thinning, and the protection of riparian zones and threatened ecological communities and habitat for threatened species.

The current regime passes the burden of assessment onto farmers, who are at risk of prosecution under both state and federal environmental laws if they make an error of judgment. More importantly, Queensland's stunning natural environment is the common property of all Queenslanders, with titleholders being stewards of the land that they manage on behalf of all of us.

I would also ask the committee to ensure that traditional owners have a right to self-determination in relation to activities taking place on their country.

Regards,

Michele Newby