

**From:**  
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Support for the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
**Date:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 6:48:49 AM

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Dear State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee

***I live in the wet tropics of Far North Queensland, in an area where biodiversity is currently being threatened by development that is not in line with local or state plans and where the community has for the last two decades been working hard to re-vegetate the narrow corridor between the North and South Wet Tropics. This region relies on tourism as well as agriculture, and has several endemic species under threat. Every wet season when there is enough rain to make the Barron River run high, it is brown with the soil it is carrying to the sea. Conservation and agriculture don't need to be in opposition, and there are examples from all over Australia where re-vegetation is helping to revive depleted agricultural land. This is also a message that needs to get out there!***

I wish to express my support for the passing of Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, although I wish to see some amendments to the Bill first.

I strongly endorse the Bill in seeking to scrap high value agriculture as a relevant clearing purpose, protect high conservation value regrowing woodlands, scrap the thinning code, extend Reef riparian areas, and to terminate current Area Management Plans.

I strongly endorse amendments to the Bill to totally remove 'managing thickened vegetation' provisions, to guarantee no new self-assessable code for thinning or new Area Management Plans were possible in the future.

I am disappointed that government is not proposing to substantially tighten up fodder harvesting provisions, including major restrictions and tying any clearing to official drought declaration.

I respectfully ask that the Committee examine options for recommending changes to the Bill and codes accordingly, and to ensure that the above reforms are fully translated into practice.

Even with these reforms, I believe there will be more work to be done in bringing about an end to remnant clearing in Queensland, to better protect threatened species including koalas, cassowaries and other threatened birds, frogs, bats, marsupials and their habitats, and to comprehensively protect native woodlands and the Great Barrier Reef.

Yours Sincerely,

Alison Kempe

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