

The Committee Secretary,  
State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Brisbane, Qld. 4000.

Dear Committee Members,

I have been concerned about environmental destruction and lack of respect for Australia's native plants and wildlife for 40-50 years. The lack of support and obstruction presented against the last attempt by the Queensland Government to re-introduce restrictions on extensive tree clearing was quite heart-breaking. Thus, I want you to know that I strongly support the new Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and its intent to prevent the wide-scale devastation of our native woodlands and associated wildlife. The massive clearing that has occurred over the last few years must be stopped.

I strongly endorse many of the Bill's measures, including those which will:

- a) remove 'high-value' agriculture as a relevant purpose for permission to clear.
- b) protect a greater area of high conservation value regrowth woodlands by redefining it as woodland uncleared for 15 years, rather than uncleared since 1989.
- c) remove the thinning 'self-assessable' accepted development clearing code
- d) extend Reef riparian areas giving protection to watercourses along additional areas within the Great Barrier Reef catchment.
- e) increase protection for essential habitat for 'near-threatened' wildlife species rather than only for 'endangered' or 'vulnerable' species.
- f) enable the reclassification of some currently unregulated vegetation areas, Category X, as Category A thus allowing landholders to protect more of their land.
- g) reinstate riverine protection permits.

In order to ensure that Queensland has the best possible protection for its wildlife and woodland I urge the Government to work with conservation representatives to strengthen weaknesses and close loop-holes that they have identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my say,  
Yours sincerely,

Jane McLean