

SDNRAIDC

From: Milena Gongora
Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2018 9:12 PM
To: SDNRAIDC
Subject: Submission to Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Categories: SUBMISSIONS

Dear State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. My name is Milena Gongora, and I write as a citizen from [REDACTED]

As a citizen, I am deeply concerned about the extent of the clearing that has taken place since the Vegetation laws were changed under Premier Newman. While an urbanite most of the year, I feel strongly connected to nature, centre our family's hobbies and leisure around the state's nature and travel, and place a high value on nature. I have certainly noticed and been horrified by the clearing over the last few years during my wanderings around Queensland.

While I understand the pressures to clear for agriculture and infrastructure, I would like to see a sensible approach to vegetation management with stronger regulation, stricter requirements and minimal self-assessable codes. I would like to know that my government is taking a strong stance to protect that which is unique and irreplaceable.

I welcome the introduction of an amendment and support for the passing of Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. However, 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 and their habitats, and to comprehensively protect native woodlands.

Yours Sincerely,

Milena Gongora