

**SDNRAIDC**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 10:50 AM  
**To:** SDNRAIDC  
**Subject:** Submission for Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 - James Edward Bennett

**Submission for Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

I, JAMES EDWARD BENNETT am lodging this submission to show my support for the major strengthening of tree-clearing laws in Queensland.

Clearing of large, mature native trees severely reduces available hollows in trees for native animals to reside in. Hollows provide a safe home and breeding ground for many species of animals from birds and gliders to bats and possums. Hollows can take hundreds of years to form so by clearing mature trees with these hollows and clearing the younger trees that would naturally replace them if they were not cleared means that not only are we eradicating current fauna habitats, we are eradicating any future habitats and breeding grounds. Furthermore by reducing these hollows, it creates further competition from animals for the existing (and rare due to vegetation clearing) hollows leading to higher stress situation for native fauna as they compete to occupy hollows. Hollows that are overused (given the rarity of them) mean that they can become a breeding ground for diseases and parasites as they do not receive adequate rest time between animal occupations.

Clearing dense understory, which naturally offers our native fauna a great source of food and protection also inhibits nature's ability to manage exotic and invasive weeds. Some weeds include Lantana, Madeira Vine, Cat's Claw Vine and many exotic grasses (however there are many, many more invasive weeds, this is just a small selection). The clearing of this understory simply encourages invasive weeds to overtake, being much more aggressive and faster growing than our native flora - our native flora simply cannot compete with the exotics. Many high-value native plants (some examples include Hovea, Psychotria, ground orchids and native herbs) are being overtaken by exotic grasses that are extremely aggressive.

A lack of understory from clearing creates areas of great erosion along our waterways. This leads to poor water quality and means there is a very real disconnection of the habitats that were once all connected along these waterways. A simple example of the effects this has on our fauna is that of native turtles crossing roads and residential areas to get to other watered habitats. There is a desperate need to protect our streams, creeks and rivers and protect and regenerate this connectivity along our waterways.

Please consider these points when reviewing the tree-clearing legislations in Queensland.

Regards,

James Bennett