

*Yvonne Cunningham*

21 March 2018

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

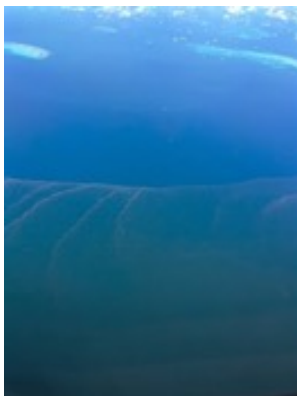
**Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

Dear Committee,

I congratulate and support the Queensland Government and your committee in your effort to protect Queensland's remaining vegetation with this Amendment Bill.

I live at the mouth of the Johnstone River and I see first hand the sediments in the runoff from the Johnstone River catchment during rain events. These suspended sediments have smothered and killed the fringing reefs along the coastline and are carried out to the Great Barrier Reef where they eventually deposit their sediments causing further coral death.

Below Johnstone River estuary in flood.



Aerial photo of  
sediment plume  
reaching the  
Great Barrier  
Reef.



Illegal and past dubious permitted clearing of riparian vegetation along watercourses all over Queensland is responsible for increased runoff to the Great Barrier Reef. The Cassowary Coast River Improvement Trust has reported the dire condition of the Johnstone River to the Queensland Government where bank slump, low bank and high bank erosion now threaten private and public lands: yet still nothing is done to restore the riparian vegetation. All over Queensland farm crops are planted to the high banks of watercourses and farm drains empty directly into watercourses either over the high bank or dug into low banks - this must change.



The sediment deposited at the mouth of the rivers leaves a thick layer of silt which causes dieback of mangroves and smothers the feeding ground of migratory and resident waders, and of great concern, kills fish spawn.



I ask that your committee act strongly to protect the remnant riparian vegetation along all watercourses in Queensland. It is urgent that Category R (Reef riparian), vegetation is mapped to better protect it across Queensland.

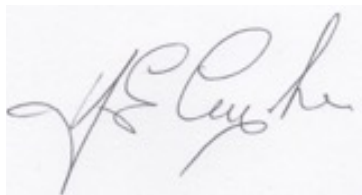
I ask that your committee recommend additional specific action to restore Category R (Reef riparian) vegetation along all watercourses that empty into the GBRMP.

I ask your committee to give the highest protection to all vegetation within the catchment areas of coastal rivers.

During rain events, the Cassowary Coast Regional Council repeatedly announces 'boil water' alerts due to the 'high turbidity levels and large amounts of debris in the filtrations'. The loss of riparian vegetation and the destruction of catchment vegetation is the main cause of this problem.

Please extend your scope and recommend changes to the Bill and codes to protect and replant riparian zones along all watercourses in Queensland but particularly along the GBRMP coast.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Cunningham', is written on a light-colored background.

Yvonne Cunningham

Three horizontal black bars of varying lengths, used to redact contact information such as an address, phone number, and email address.