

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)  
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2018 10:48:21 AM

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**It is inconceivable that in this day and age, with our knowledge of Climate Change, the massive impact of deforestation on ecology, fauna, rainfall, degradation of our thin soils leading to massive erosion and runoff, this Parliamentary Committee is still buckling under lobby pressure from groups who do NOT give a damn about this State and long term consequences, but are driven by short term profits and gains. It seems we NEVER learn anything and especially that the old English system of agriculture is a total and complete disaster in Australia. We still don't get it !! We all walk around commenting on the massive forest clearances of the Amazon - we recognize the impact this will have globally - we now understand that the Amazon acts as the lungs of our Earth, yet here we are in scrubby Australia acting as if clearing land the size of Belgium is "inconsequential. Politicians are swayed more by commercial pressure and should never be allowed to make decisions that affect the countryside unless it is backed by scientific knowledge. Self assessment of requirements is a farce - it is simply giving the rats control of the cheese factory. Just check the wholesale clearances of the Mallee (Vic) and York Peninsula (S.A.) back in the 1950-60's if you want to get some idea of where we are heading in Queensland. Yorke Peninsula S.A. used to have rainfall contours with 45 " of rain some 300km north in South Australia. The current rainfall contours do not even have 45" anywhere now and 30" is now virtually at the shore. The pressure agricultural groups do not give rat's arse about supplying internal Australian requirements. They want the land purely for export products and could not care less about the price of beef / lamb for one in the Australian market. They perform NO added value (too hard), no processing meat, no leather, no fertilizers from blood and bone, and have no qualms about degradation of massive areas to the detriment of our flora and fauna. All they want is clear felled land which will slowly degrade into thousands of hectares of non-arable soils - in drought, they will claim "drought assistance" and "hardship" subsidies for ventures that should never have been allowed to proceed in the first place.**

**This Committee needs to have some guts to say "NO" to practices that harm and irrevocably destroy what little native flora and fauna we have left - it is NOT good enough as we should be the custodians of our country for our children, our grandchildren and future generations. There is NOTHING sustainable in the current or proposed practices. I just fail to understand how those in power constantly come down on the side of commercial interests. Invariably, these same groups will scream for subsidies in the bad times but offer nothing in the good.**

To: Queensland Parliamentary Committee Members

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

It is inconceivable that in this day and age, with our knowledge of Climate Change, the massive impact of deforestation on ecology, fauna, rainfall, degradation of our thin soils leading to massive erosion and runoff, this Parliamentary Committee is still buckling under lobby pressure from groups who do NOT give a damn about this State and long term consequences, but are driven by short term profits and gains. It seems we NEVER learn anything and especially that the old English system of agriculture is a total and complete disaster in Australia. We still don't get it !! We all walk around commenting on the massive forest clearances of the Amazon - we recognize the impact this will have globally - we now understand that the Amazon acts as the lungs of our Earth, yet here we are in scrubby Australia acting as if clearing land the size of Belgium is "inconsequential". Politicians are swayed more by commercial pressure and should never be allowed to make decisions that affect the countryside unless it is backed by scientific knowledge. Self assessment of requirements is a farce - it is simply giving the rats control of the cheese factory. Just check the wholesale clearances of the Mallee (Vic) and York Peninsula (S.A.) back in the 1950-60's if you want to get some idea of where we are heading in Queensland. Yorke Peninsula S.A. used to have rainfall contours with 45 " of rain some 300km north in South Australia. The current rainfall contours do not even have 45" anywhere now and 30" is now virtually at the shore. The pressure agricultural groups do not give rat's arse about supplying internal Australian requirements. They want the land purely for export products and could not care less about the price of beef / lamb for one in the Australian market. They perform NO added value (too hard), no processing meat, no leather, no fertilizers from blood and bone, and have no qualms about degradation of massive areas to the detriment of our flora and fauna. All they want is clear felled land which will slowly degrade into thousands of hectares of non-arable soils - in drought, they will claim "drought assistance" and "hardship" subsidies for ventures that should never have been allowed to proceed in the first place.

This Committee needs to have some guts to say "NO" to practices that harm and irrevocably destroy what little native flora and fauna we have left - it is NOT good enough as we should be the custodians of our country for our children, our grandchildren and future generations. There is NOTHING sustainable in the current or proposed practices. I just fail to understand how those in power constantly come down on the side of commercial interests. Invariably, these same groups will scream for subsidies in the bad times but offer nothing in the good.

Queensland is in the midst of an escalating deforestation and land clearing crisis, with a Gabba-sized area of forests and bushlands destroyed every three minutes. It is critically important that this new law ends this crisis and protects our beautiful forests and bushland, as well as our native wildlife.

I welcome the improvements that are in this law: the end of permits for so-called High Value Agriculture, the removal of the main self-assessable code for thinning, the modification of the fodder self-assessable code, and the

redefinition of High Value Regrowth to include regrowing forest and bushland that is 15 years of age and within 50 metres of watercourses in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

However, the test for these laws is: will they bring down the out-of-control rate of bulldozing in Queensland? Will they protect the state's wildlife?

These laws must end broadscale clearing and protect all remnant and High Conservation Value regrowth forest and bushland in Queensland, as outlined in the election commitment. I call on the government to make publicly available data that shows that these laws will achieve those commitments.

In addition, the following improvements to the law must be made:

- Ensure that no threatened species habitat is able to be bulldozed, and no “of concern” regional ecosystems are able to be bulldozed.
- End all bulldozing of mature forest and bushland for ‘thinning’ (which will still be allowed under a Development Approval, existing Area Management Plans and self-assessable regrowth codes).
- End bulldozing of mature forest and bushland for so-called ‘fodder harvesting’ unless it is lopping individual branches. At the very least, it should be proven to be necessary due to being a drought, and proven to be ‘low ecological impact.’
- Protect all regrowing forest and bushland that is threatened species habitat and that surrounds watercourses (riparian areas)—as was promised in the election commitment.
- Protect the regrown remnant and High Conservation Value Regrowth that is currently marked ‘exempt’ and is not protected in Category X on PMAVs.

Regards,

– ALAN RICHARDT