

**From:**  
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Subject:** Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
**Date:** Sunday, 18 March 2018 3:48:19 PM

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Anthony Poutsma

Dear State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee

As an Airline Pilot who has spent the last 35 years flying over Queensland, I am dismayed at the amount of deforestation this State is subject to. Vegetation are the lungs of the planet, sequestering carbon, stabilising soil and renewing oxygen. I have observed, in the course of my lifetime, the appearance of our atmosphere slowly change from clear to constantly hazy, an observable testament of our activities. The planet is mostly ocean and as a result of rising CO2 levels in our atmosphere, our scientists are measuring rising acidification. The results can be seen in the disappearing kelp forests and stressed coral reefs. We need to reverse the trends that have brought us to this point. We need to reverse deforestation.

I will to express my support for the passing of Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, although 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,

Anthony Poutsma