

**From:**  
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
**Date:** Monday, 19 March 2018 2:50:58 PM

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- **Ensure that tree clearing activities are not disturbing Aboriginal sites and that such tree clearing activities are not ignoring the 'Duty of Care' obligations required by all land-users under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 - this needs to be stated in the new legislation.**
- **The renewal process and conditions attached to pastoral leases, grazing leases and grazing permits and like land tenure, need to include stronger and more substantial conditions as stated in the above, to help better manage and conserve our remnant bushland areas.**
- **Consideration also needs to be given to the amendments to the QG Planning Act 2016, and ensure that these amendments are acted on in landuse planning and landuse management documents.**
- **Allow tree clearing and bushland conservation & cultural heritage monitoring, including use of drone camera monitoring by Departmental staff, researchers and wider community, including Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal communities.**

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.

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 (ie our natural heritage and cultural heritage).

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 and conserve our ecosystem services to maintain healthy people needing healthy lands and waters?

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.
  - Ensure that tree clearing activities are not disturbing Aboriginal sites and that such tree clearing activities are not ignoring the 'Duty of Care' obligations required by all land-users under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 - this needs to be stated in the new legislation.
  - The renewal process and conditions attached to pastoral leases, grazing leases and grazing permits and like land tenure, need to include stronger and more substantial conditions as stated in the above, to help better manage and conserve our remnant bushland areas.
  - Consideration also needs to be given to the amendments to the QG Planning Act 2016, and ensure that these amendments are acted on in landuse planning and landuse management documents.
  - Allow tree clearing and bushland conservation & cultural heritage monitoring, including use of drone camera monitoring by Departmental staff, researchers and wider community, including Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal communities.

Regards,

– Genevieve Jones