

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2018 7:56:29 AM

I live in Gympie region where a lot of land clearing on hillsides and creeks occurs with devastating consequences in high rain events. I know that a lot of landholders raced out and got PMAVs so they wouldn't be affected by the new legislation. The legislation needs to take into account these new PMAVs so that these landholders can't continue as they have.

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.

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? What about all the landholders that rushed out getting PMAVs before this legislation. How will you stop them from clearing their land on hillsides and creeks on Great Barrier Reef catchments. Attention in the legislation needs to be given to PMAVs otherwise this legislation will be toothless.

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,

– Janelle Vaughan