

**From:**  
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018-VMOLA Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, 20 March 2018 8:59:12 PM

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Committee Secretary State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry  
Development Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000

Submission to Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
('VMOLA Bill') inquiry

Dear Committee

I am a land holder in north Queensland. My property contains several hectares of native forest. I am directly affected by the regulation and restriction of tree clearing. YET I fully support tightening up of land clearing regulations. I am appalled at the panic clearing by some landholders in recent times. Unnecessary tree clearing is bad for the land, bad for the rivers, bad for the wetlands and oceans AND Bad for agricultural production. Generally, landholders are happy to comply with reasonable restrictions, especially if it is to protect threatened habitats, rare and threatened species, but always and most importantly to PROTECT WATER.

I strongly support the following elements of the VMOLA Bill as they will help reduce excessive and unnecessary tree clearing in Queensland:

1. Reintroduction of the requirement to obtain Riverine Protection Permits to better regulate damaging clearing in watercourses.
2. Phasing out existing Area Management Plans which have allowed significant clearing across Queensland.
3. Extended protections of regrowth vegetation near watercourses across Great Barrier Reef catchments, to reduce damaging runoff, including catchments which were not protected under the Vegetation Management Act.

I generally support the following amendments but they need to be strengthened, to protect wildlife habitats, ground and surface water, protect the Great Barrier Reef and mitigate climate change:

1. I support improved protection of 'high value regrowth vegetation' that hasn't been cleared for 15 years and re-extending regulation to freehold, indigenous land and occupational licences. Furthermore, it MUST be extended to protect high conservation value regrowth vegetation especially endangered vegetation species and communities, vegetation in reef catchments, riparian areas, threatened species habitat and areas where landscape integrity is at risk.
2. I support tightening of the definition of 'thinning'. 'Thinning' can currently include clearing up to 75% of a forest under current laws and has been responsible for large areas of useless and degrading clearing across Queensland. A large reduction in the area allowed for 'thinning' should be enforced. Any clearing of mature and high value regrowth vegetation should no longer be an allowable activity by permit or code, under existing Area Management Plans.
3. I support that the Bill clarifies, that landholders may seek to amend their Property

Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) to re-regulate clearing in areas which were locked in across Queensland as not needing assessment under Newman Government laws. This clarification is helpful. However, the Bill needs to be changed to REQUIRE amendment of maps that lock in unregulated clearing of any high value vegetation. And this must be government enforced. Under the Newman Government, significant areas of Queensland were locked in under property level maps which allowed the clearing of unregulated 'Category X' even though the clearing would impact mature, high value vegetation. Leaving map amendment up to the land owner will leave important areas of Queensland vulnerable to unregulated clearing.

4. The Bill does not tighten excessive clearing allowed under fodder harvesting codes. Amendments are needed to limit fodder harvesting to areas where there is an official drought declaration.

Yours sincerely, Alice Hungerford

This email was sent by Alice Hungerford

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