

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2018 1:11:17 PM

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Dear Committee members,

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

Congratulations on the creation of legislation designed to curb the extensive clearing that has been occurring in Queensland.

Clearing threatens habitat for both plant and animal species, it releases carbon dioxide which in turn increases the effect of climate change and it can in some areas directly impact on the currently stressed Great Barrier Reef.

While welcoming the legislation and its apparent capacity to control clearing I have concerns that , once the legislation passes, it will still in fact be possible to clear threatened species habitat under some circumstances. I would urge that that possibility be removed.

It would also seem that under some circumstances riparian vegetation would still be able to be cleared. I understand and welcome the fact that that is not the case in catchments that feed into the Great Barrier Reef, I would urge that all riparian vegetation be protected so as to provide continuity of vegetation across the landscape.

My understanding is that certain regrowth areas have been exempted from the legislation. I would urge that that not be the case when the vegetation has a demonstrated value for species retention, catchment protection or when it is habitat for threatened species of any sort.

All the best,

Peter Young

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.

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,

– Peter Young