

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: VMOLA Bill comment
Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2018 2:47:16 PM

Your Name: Christina Shepherd

Dear State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee

I wish to express my support for the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, and welcome that change in Government Policy as it is a key to maintaining biodiversity, which is rapidly reducing due to the ongoing habitat destruction that proceeds with ongoing economic development. A line needs to be drawn somewhere, our water quality, land resources and vegetation are valuable not just for biodiversity but to support economic activities like farming and tourism. If we don't control vegetation removal land and water resource will continuously and unabatedly decline in value for farming and tourism as well. The record of vegetation clearing in Queensland is very disturbing and will be hard to address while it remains the sole responsibility of those landholders on whose land native vegetation remains to bear the cost of keeping their native vegetation managed in situ and / or doing regeneration / revelation.

Although 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 recommend that the Government further deliver the goal of preventing further loss of native vegetation and explore making 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.

I would also like to recommend that the Government consider disallowing further vegetation clearance, except in very limited circumstances, and introduce a biodiversity levy on all land holders that can be used to pay other landholders for maintaining what

native vegetation is left on their properties and fund government and private conservation parks. These landholders deserve an income and because they will deliver biodiversity and other environmental benefits - water quality, biodiversity, soil health, air quality etc - as well as long term economic benefits that will benefit businesses, they could contribute to a future biodiversity/environment/nrm/vegetation/catchment/flora and fauna levy.

Thank you for your attention

Kind regards

Christina Shepherd
