

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2018 9:44:46 AM

The area of regrown remnant and High Conservation Value Regrowth in exempt areas (known as ‘Category X’) is not known and is currently not protected. We understand this has not been mapped. We suspect a large amount of remnant and High Conservation Value Regrowth is being bulldozed in these areas— up to 30% according to some analyses. If this is the case, then it is not possible to meet the election commitment to
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protect remnant and High Conservation Value Regrowth without delving into exempt vegetation.
In addition, exempt Category X areas account for a large proportion of the total area cleared in Queensland—one estimate has over 60% of total clearing 2013–16 as mapped exempt. If the
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laws do not protect any of the forest and bushland currently mapped exempt, then it is hard to see how overall clearing rates will be substantially reduced. Unless these changes are made, we are concerned the Bill will not stop broadscale clearing or protect remnant and High Conservation Value Regrowth forests and bushland as promised by the Queensland Government in the election commitment. Unless these changes are made, we are concerned that we will not see urgent and substantial reduction in the crisis levels of forest, bushland and native animals being wiped out by bulldozers in Queensland.

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?

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,

– Lyn Schlunke