

**From:**  
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
**Date:** Wednesday, 21 March 2018 9:41:29 AM

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**After the hailstorm last month at Clermont and the subsequent death of animals not protected by some cover. I think any forestry activity has to bear in mind season factors, erosion of exposed hills and the flow on effect downstream. Shelter for livestock living on these fodder crops. Shelter provides in ground water reservoirs and trees use that to reduce their temperature and provide a cool climate when in close proximity. We have all seen the barren hills and scorched valleys from early 1930's clearing and would hope the decision makers of today don't repeat those mistakes. The photo illustrates total annihilation of the trees and then burning the residue. No wildlife corridors, no useful use of residue as a mulch and water runoff inhibitor. No real thought for the ecology of the area. It is cheaper and easier to clear fell everything as done with dozers and chains in days gone past. The subsequent drilling of crops is more efficient with no overlay as when you traverse trees. But over time the ground gets salty and hard due to lack of water storing capacities like trees to slow the flow and allow deeper penetration. Please think about this sort of operation and be sure the regulations create the right incentives, the forest is everyone's and for everyone and everything that resides within it. It should not be possible for a private individual or corporation to buy existing forested land and just clear fell everything because they own it. There are always downstream issues.**

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,

– Peter Johnson