

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 20 March 2018 6:47:31 AM

We are disgusted with the widespread clearing of our native vegetation and hope the vegetation laws can be made even stronger. No more land needs to be cleared. Our family has managed this property for 135 years with a wide variety of livestock and cropping. We see the benefits first hand of the regeneration and retention of our high value remnant rainforest and sclerophyll forest. We see wattle improving the soil and helping prevent actual weeds taking over. We see our original survey plans show areas of grassland and timbered areas. These original plans and original settlers written accounts give a good indication of an excellent land use economy prior to white settlement and this should be replicated as much as possible.

The appalling ignorance of most of the the ag sector is frightening. For example, comments saying they want to "drought proof" their properties by clearing more land. That mulga causes drought "its called a mulga drought" and that tree roots cause erosion.

We can show you where wattle ringbarked many years ago has erosion and right beside it where wattle is growing well, no erosion. In drought when graziers feed mulga, there would be no grass anyway. Overstocking is causing the damage, our soils are too fragile. If we have dust everywhere else in drought, it is green grass under the trees probably because more moisture is retained in the shade. Farmers are clearing new lands for cropping and grazing and need to be stopped.

If it hasn't been cleared to date, it is vital that vegetation be retained.

The landowners driven by money or ill informed ideas, instead of science, have no respect for research and so are therefore extremely dangerous in being allowed to "self manage" eg why would a farmer that already has severe salinity problems then clear a huge swathe of native forest? Is it ignorance or greed? For all our futures, please bring in stronger laws to stop any new clearing please.

Australia ranks in the top 10 of the world's major deforestation fronts – the only one in a developed nation. Most of the clearing is happening in Queensland, and it is accelerating.

A group of leading ecologists voiced their alarm at new data which showed the clearing of 296,000 hectares of forest in 2013-14. This was three times higher than in 2008-09, kicking Australia up the list as one of the world's forest-clearing pariahs. At the 2016 Society for Conservation Biology Conference, a Scientists' Declaration was signed by hundreds of scientists, expressing concern at these clearing rates.

Queensland's Department of Science report on land cover change showed a staggering 395,000ha of clearing for 2015-16: an increase of one third on 2014-15. This rate of increased clearing is unmatched anywhere else on the globe.

If roughly 250,000-270,000 humans are added to our planet daily, after deaths subtracted -and

150 acres of forest are cleared every minute globally-that's 78 million acres globally a year-and

It takes roughly 20 years growth for a tree to produce enough oxygen for one adult human (give or take depending on foliage cover and hemisphere)

Is suicide being seriously considered an option for the human species?

I am a farmer and I saw Ag forces propaganda which was sent out, More importantly, I voted for you to overturn these laws -so just do it.

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,

– c philips