

To: Committee Secretary,  
State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane, QLD 4000.

21 March 2018

To the Committee members,

My name is Sue Cole. I am a family person, experienced geologist, and active landcarer. I am very concerned about the preservation of Australia's wildlife and natural landscape. Both wildlife and woodlands of Queensland have significant intrinsic value to Queenslanders, and all people of Australia, as well as being a major beneficial resource of importance to the future of all Queenslanders. Woodland areas and riparian zones provide essential habitat and safe migration corridors for native animals, contain extensive plant resources, and provide protection to lands from erosion and water-borne pollutants. Preserving and restoring woodland is very important for the wellbeing of all who live and work in Queensland, now and in the future.

I wish to express my broad support for the passing of *the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*. I strongly support the intent of this Bill to cease the wide-scale devastation of our native woodlands and wildlife that has occurred in recent years.

I strongly endorse many of the Bill's measures, including those which will:

- remove 'high-value' agriculture as a relevant purpose, under which clearing can be permitted
- protect a greater area of high conservation value regrowth woodlands, by re-defining this as woodland uncleared for 15 years (rather than uncleared since 1989)
- remove the thinning "self-assessable" accepted development clearing code
- extend Reef riparian areas by giving protection to watercourses along additional areas within the GBR catchment (Eastern Cape York, Fitzroy and Burnett-Mary Catchments)
- increase protection for essential habitat for "near-threatened" wildlife species, not just "endangered" or "vulnerable" species,
- enable the re-classification of some currently unregulated (Category X) vegetation areas as Category A, allowing landholders to protect more of their land
- reinstate riverine protection permits

I recognise that some areas of weakness within the Bill have been identified by the conservation movement and urge the Government to work co-operatively with conservation representatives to strengthen weaknesses and close loop-holes in order to ensure Queensland has the best possible protection for its wildlife and woodland.

It really is imperative that we continue to work to end clearing of remnant vegetation, allow significant regrowth areas to flourish, to help restore what has been lost, and to bring meaningful and effective protection to our threatened fauna species which, in many cases, have been under extreme pressure.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Sue I Cole

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