

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 8:06:15 AM

Whilst agriculture is an important component of the Australian economy, the large scale clearing of native vegetation, often to grow meat or crops for overseas export (rather than for domestic consumption) can not be allowed to continue. Once a native ecosystem and the species it supports have been cleared they can not be replaced.

Having worked in Queensland for the past 10 years I have seen first hand the impacts associated with large scale clearing of native vegetation associated with agriculture, including smoke, loss of habitat, soil erosion, introduction and spread of pest plant and animal species, dust storms and the increased use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and fuel (not to mention increasing numbers of heavy vehicles on roads).

Please don't continue the mistakes made in the 1980's to 2000's.

With the effects of human induced climate change now becoming evident it is imperative that we reduce our emissions and preserve our remaining native carbon sinks. Clearing and burning native vegetation is an outdated practice that needs to stop now.

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,

– Zoe Bowen