

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
 Subject: Submission on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
 Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 9:18:14 AM

[REDACTED] writes:

In the last 6 months I have travelled by car from Nth QLD to Noosa Heads as I am a self employed sales agent. The first trip I made last Oct/ Nov I travelled along the Bruce Hwy through every town and to my horror I saw first hand the effects of severe landclearing. This was most prevalent Between Gin Gin and Mackay. I saw just out of Gin Gin HECTARES AND HECTARES of OLD GROWTH EUCALYPTS IN BIG TRIANGULAR PYRES BURNING. These pyres went for as far as my eyes could see. I stopped the car and was in deep shock realising these old trees could never be put back and thousands of koalas and all native animals and birds had no home. Then I remembered my childhood in the car looking out the window and seeing a koala in the trees. That is all gone now. I stopped at the nearest cafe petrol station it was the only independent business left along the entire coast and the gentleman there told me that a poor desperate farmer sold his property to a [REDACTED] Business man who had immediately cut ALL trees down and that was the burning I was seeing with my own eyes. I left and headed to Noosa . On my way back I saw the same property and stopped. There were hundreds of pyres of smoking charcoal and small calves (too young to be taken from their mums) wandering around on barren land. This is only one example of the shocking truth of this federal government allowing Landclearing at a devastating rate and Foreign ownership laws come into this also. The tiny calves will be bound for LIVE EXPORT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This whole story sickens me. I'm not sure how a labour government can pass an immediate stop to this horrific mess when they are up against the biggest bullies heartless money minded lawyers that are ruling this country. From what I have witnessed down there and up here in the Atherton Tablelands is the END of AUSTRALIA'S FLORA AND FAUNA. Here's another example of land clearing old growth forests. I was sitting in my office I live on the Kennedy Hwy and I witnessed a semi trailer with ONE TREE STUMP AS ITS LOAD....the tablelands of far north QLD HAVE ALL BUT DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH TREE KANGAROOS QUOLLS ALL NATIVE ANIMALS ARE VERY RARE NOW including the platypus which has farmers cut down all native vegetation around once pristine creeks so their cattle can drink from these creeks . The creeks they pump water from the freezing water that used to feed the rivers that fed into THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WHICH IS NOW ALSO DYING. So in closing please KNOW THIS EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED. Nature is balance but For many reasons we HAVE DESTROYED IT AND ARE DOING SO EVERYDAY. Plastic pollution one use plastics are littered ALL ALONG THE COAST FROM MELBOURNE MY HOME TOWN TO THE TIP OF AUSTRALIA. I have seen this in the last year. They are in every waterway gully and every step you take on the side of the Bruce Hwy is a empty plastic bottle. THIS INCLUDES WORLD HERITAGE AREAS. I am ashamed of my leaders I am ashamed of the federal government as they know what they are doing so please please at least stand up to these landclearing laws its

**all too late. The dissasociation every AUSTRALIAN is feeling from people in Victoria to the farmers up here it is extremley important that WE ALL REALISE THAT THE EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE LANDCLEARING WILL DESTROY US ALL. No wildlife no bees no insects no koalas no birdlife(which has happened) MEANS NO US. Choosing a coal mine over tourism is a very stupid bussiness decision. But ultamatley the enviroment should never have been subbmited into polotics. We as humans have a duty of care to our native wildlife and each other. WE ALL HAVE FAILED TO REMEMBER THIS. Please act abd make this one law happen
THANKYOU. Amanda Hook**

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,

– Amanda Hook

