



**Hon Stephen Robertson MP**  
Member for Stretton



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources and  
Minister for Mines**

01 JUL 2003

Mr N J Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 5 June forwarding a copy of a Petition lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly, requesting the House to stop land clearing and help our native wildlife survive and enjoy life.

The Queensland Government is committed to the protection of native vegetation. Satellite imagery has shown that since the implementation of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* in 2000 the clearing of native remnant vegetation has decreased. However, the Queensland Government considers greater controls on native vegetation clearing to be a priority.

The Queensland Government is therefore pleased that after a number of years of seeking their involvement, the Commonwealth Government has joined with the Queensland Government to develop a proposed new framework for vegetation management in Queensland. The two governments are currently consulting with key stakeholders on the details of the proposal.

The proposal includes the protection of "of concern" vegetation on freehold land and a phased reduction in broadacre clearing of remnant vegetation to zero by 2006. Importantly, it includes the continuation of the Regional Vegetation Management Planning process which has been important for building community ownership of vegetation management objectives. The proposal is underpinned by a \$150 million package for landholders, made up of \$75 million from the State Government and \$75 million from the Commonwealth Government.

We are hopeful that the current proposal can be finalised shortly so that all Queenslanders can share in the long-term benefits.

Yours sincerely

**Rod Welford MP**  
Acting Minister for Natural Resources  
Acting Minister for Mines

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