See Attachment – Signature Page 1 of 13

Date: 19 April 2016

Authors: Janelle Vaughan and Allan Coppin
[redacted] Goomboorian Qld 4570
Phone: [redacted] Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

RE: Submission to Parliamentary Committee on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 – Importance that Vegetation Mapping is Correct

…… ……
Janelle L. Vaughan Allan Coppin

Dear Agriculture and Environment Committee

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to make a submission on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Bill).

We agree with the intention of the Bill to restore protections for ecologically important 'High Value Regrowth' on freehold and Aboriginal land and trees in 'Riparian Areas' in order to prevent runoff into Great Barrier Reef catchments, as well to reduce millions of tonnes of CO2 from landclearing impacting on climate change.

We hold protections of ecologically significant vegetation to be extremely important and applied for a 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant 14-15 in order to protect the remnant endangered vegetation (RE 12.11.16) on our property (Paddock 7) from cattle grazing, but we were unsuccessful.

We support the passing of the Bill, however, it must be based on accurate vegetation mapping.

Reason for Submission

Since the Bill was announced the new vegetation map for our property is not an accurate and true representation of vegetation that currently exists. We would like the vegetation map for our property corrected.

In Appendix 1 there are two maps:

1. Satellite image of our property, and
2. New vegetation map with 90% of our property as 'High Value Regrowth'.

We have drawn and numbered each paddock on our property and overlaid this information onto the new vegetation map. Where numbers are mentioned in the submission, please consult these two maps.

In Appendix 2 there is photographic evidence of the vegetation existing in each numbered paddock.

Property History

Prior to 2002 the property had been cleared by a number of owners to run cattle (Paddocks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10) and to grow beans and pineapples (Paddock 4 north facing slope and 6).

2002-2011 the owner ran 80 head of cattle (Paddocks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10). During the period approx. 2009/2010 the cross-hatched sections (Paddocks 7 and 9) were logged. Please note other logging occurred in the hatched section (Paddock 7) either during the period 2002-2011 or prior to that. Within the period 2002-2011 the owner also cleared lantana (Paddocks 4 and 5) using a bulldozer. Paddock 4 is a drainage line. There are some old tree species dotted along the drainage line however these also are walls of lantana. Paddock 5 is now completely wattle regrowth.

We have owned this property since 16 January 2012. We did not move to this property until 1 December 2012.

In March 2012 there was a severe flooding event. By the time we moved to the property in December 2012 Paddocks 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 were heavily infested with lantana, wild tobacco, wattle and guinea hamil grass. Serious erosion had occurred (Paddock 2A) before Mullins Creek flows into a manmade billabong (pre-2002).

In January 2013 there was another severe flooding event and the lantana, wild tobacco, wattle and guinea hamil grass in these paddocks became almost impenetrable in parts (mainly Paddocks 4, 5 and parts of 8, 9 and 10).

Improvements Made to the Property

In May 2013 we began cell grazing cattle (using electric fencing) in Paddocks 2, 3, and 6 in order to knock down weeds and improve grass cover and soil condition. The cattle were rotationally grazed rather than cell grazed in Paddocks 4, 5, 9 and 10 because of the density of lantana, wild tobacco, wattle and guinea hamil grass.

In 2014 we participated in the first of two Reef Rescue Projects partially funded by the Federal Government. The program is run by the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) and project managed through the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC). The purpose of the project was to improve grazing land condition with productive grasses and legumes, improve ground cover, reduce nutrient rich runoff, improve riparian zone condition and downstream water quality and to rehabilitate gullies.

Inspection and assessments of our property were undertaken on 3 December 2013 by Project Officers, MRCCC using the Remnant Vegetation and Regrowth Map, Atlas of Australian Soils Landscape Units – CSIRO 1966 Map, Grazing Land Practices Assessment and Field Monitoring Sheet – Grazing Land Condition – Sustainable Grazing Management in the Mary River Catchment in order to assess the property's suitability for the project.

Please note the two Project Officers noted that the Remnant Vegetation and Regrowth Map (current at 2014) and the Atlas of Australian Soils Landscape Units – CSIRO 1966 Map were also not accurate representations of the vegetation or soils on the property.

We committed a significant amount of time and money (plus Federal Government funding) to install a 5,000 gallon tank (top of Paddock 6), pump and gravity pipe feed system to pump water from the dam (Paddock 3) to the tank and then to gravity feed to trough points high in the landscape, fence the dam (Paddock 3) (using electric fence) and permanently fence the riparian zone (Paddock 2A) off from the cattle.

Since we fenced the cattle out of the riparian area (Paddock 2A) we invested a considerable amount of money to complete a major driveway and dam overflow project to channel flood water under the driveway using large pipes to enable flood water to flow directly into Mullins Creek rather than flow across Paddock 2A in order to prevent further erosion on the bank of the creek.

We have also undertaken regeneration and revegetation work in the riparian area (Paddock 2A) to stabilise the banks, allow and protect natural regeneration of trees (including the rare Macadamia ternifolia) and planting seeds of endemic species we have collected from the riparian area.

On 15 October 2014 we applied for a 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant 14-15 to erect 2 fences (below northern and southern edges of remnant vegetation occurring in Paddock 7) to conserve and protect two fragments of conservation significant (RE) 12.11.16 Gympie messmate *Eucalyptus cloeziana* forest (ref: https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/regional-ecosystems/details/?re=12.11.16), identified as an endangered regional ecosystem (*Vegetation Management Act 1999*), adjoining the eastern (Goomboorian) portion of Gympie National Park (NP). The fencing was to exclude our cattle from grazing a biodiversity status - endangered dominant vegetation (ref: Remnant 2011 Regional Ecosystems Map) to prevent degradation and potential loss of a natural forest habitat. Our application was unsuccessful due to the Grant being heavily oversubscribed.

In 2016 we undertook a second Reef Rescue Project after inspection and assessments of our property by Project Officers, MRCCC on 24 June 2015.

The purpose of the project was to fence across a 57acre paddock (Paddocks 9 and 10) according to land type to promote evenness of grazing, allow wet season spelling, improve land condition and groundcover of productive grasses and legumes and allow regeneration of grass cover around dam to prevent nutrient and soil run-off into Ginger Creek (Mary River Catchment).

We again committed considerable time and money (plus Federal Government funding) to construct 500m of subdivision fencing between Paddocks 9 and 10 to separate the grazing land types of high Spotted Gum Forest from lower scrub, run 600m of polypipe to gravity feed to three troughs high in the landscape. Excavation work for track for fence line was undertaken on 16 December 2015.

What We Want As An Outcome

We acknowledge and wish to protect the 'High Value Regrowth' on our property with the majority of it in Paddock 7 (RE 12.11.16), in patches along "parts" of the natural drainage lines (Paddocks 2, 4 and 9) and riparian zone (2A).

We have invested significant time, labour and resources to balance protection of the environment, improvement of the property to maximise the productive areas with minimal impacts. Without accurate mapping we may be prevented from continuing to effectively and sustainably manage our property.

We therefore want the decisions on the Bill to take into account the information presented in our submission in order to ensure the new vegetation maps are truly representative of the vegetation that exists on properties.

See Attachment – APPENDIX 1 Page 5 of 13

See Attachment – APPENDIX 1 Page 6 of 13

APPENDIX 2

1.

Paddock 1 contains farm sheds and house pad.

2.

Part of Paddock 2 (right side of driveway). Hoop Pines and Crows Ash are regrowth.

	 Paddock 2.
2A.	 Paddock 2A in 2016 after fencing off the riparian area from grazing, removal of lantana and wild tobacco and allowing natural regeneration of riparian vegetation.

3.	 Paddock 3.
4.	 Paddock 6 in foreground with Paddock 4 in background.

Photograph of Paddock 4 taken from Lot1RP163493.

5.

Paddock 5 showing the coverage of regrowth wattle in bloom.

	 Vegetation in lower part of Paddock 5.
6.	 Paddock 6 and part of Paddock 3 in foreground.
7.	Do not have photographs of Paddock 7.

8.	Do not have photographs of Paddock 8.
9.	 Evidence of logging of Spotted Gum in Paddock 9. Brush Box growing on lower slope.
10.	 Paddock 10 track completed 16 December 2015 for Reef Rescue Project.

Lower part of Paddock 10.

Date: 19 April 2016

Authors: Janelle Vaughan and Allan Coppin
[redacted], Goomboorian Qld 4570
Phone: [redacted] Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

RE: Submission to Parliamentary Committee on the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 – Importance that Vegetation Mapping is Correct

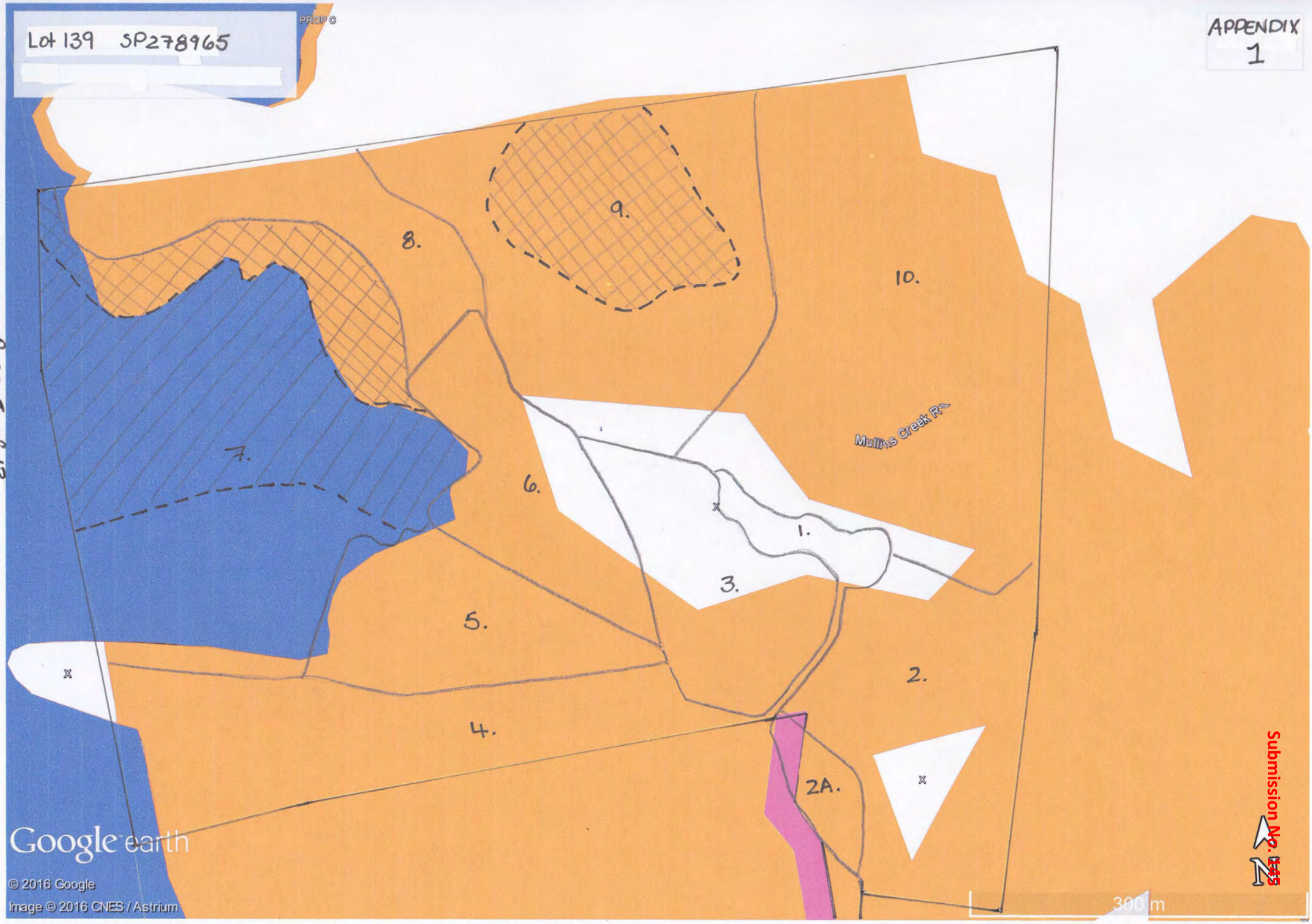
[redacted]
Janelle L. Vaughan

[redacted]
Allan Coppin


Lot 139 SP278965
APPENDIX 1
8.
9.
10.
7.
6.
Mullins Creek Rd
1.
3.
4.
2.
2A.
Google earth
© 2016 Google
Image © 2016 CNES / Astrium
300 m
N
Submission No. 125

Lot 139 SP278965

APPENDIX 1



Page 6 of 13

Submission No. 145