

SUBMISSION TO:

**Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2016**

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Closing date for submissions is 25 April 2016.

Please complete and submit this form with your submission to:

Email:
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Post: **Fax:** 07 3553 6699

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Organisation or individual:	John Ashley SIMPSON		
Principal contact:	John Ashley SIMPSON		
Position:	Retired		
Telephone:	[REDACTED]	Fax:	_____
Mobile:	[REDACTED]		
Email address:	[REDACTED]		
Street address:	[REDACTED]		
Suburb/City:	Gympie	State: Qld	Postcode: 4570
Postal address:	[REDACTED]		
Suburb/City:	Gympie	State: Qld	Postcode: 4570

Is all or part of your submission confidential?

Yes, all ☐ Yes, part ☐ No ☒

If part, please identify which sections are confidential:

Reason for confidentiality:

SUBMISSION

I provide my submission in support of the continuation of the Current Vegetation Management Act 1999 and rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 ("the Bill").

My overriding issue with the Bill is that its introduction in the Queensland Parliament on 17th March represents **yet another** variation to the Vegetation Management Framework, which has been amended over 18 times since its introduction in 1999. This constant change in legislation severely impacts on the ability of farm managers to plan and implement effective long-term property and business management decisions. Ecological processes work in much longer timeframes and can be severely compromised when mismatching, constantly changing regulations are enforced. AgForce has prepared a submission template and provided a background to some of the key provisions of the legislation which the 2016 Bill intends to amend. I fully concur with the material outlined in this submission template, copies of which no doubt are in your possession. It therefore is unnecessary for me to reiterate this material but I would like to highlight my particular concerns regarding High Value Regrowth as an additional layer under the Vegetation Management Framework.

My wife and myself enjoy a rural lifestyle on a small (12ha) block 20km east of Gympie. The property was part of a much larger holding and there is evidence to suggest that our particular property has been inhabited since the early 1900's. One mile military maps of the 1940's show 'ruins' near where our house is located, fragments of old horse drawn machinery and crockery and glass are common and there is a significant camphor laurel grove (the largest individual tree has a circumference >6.5 metres). The property has a history of dairying, cattle grazing, small cropping and growing high value Christmas trees. The point I am making as background is that the property has a long history of gross disturbance and the existing biotic, hydraulic and edaphic conditions have been drastically and irreversibly altered from the conditions that prevailed prior to European intervention.

The current Vegetation Category of our property is Category X (white – Areas not regulated under the *Vegetation Management Act* 1999). In a Vegetation management report for Lot 19, RP 177326 'no result' is shown for Regional ecosystem present of subject property but one would logically conclude that it would be 'rem_leastc' (VMA status of least concern). Under the Proposed Regulated Vegetation Management Map a significant part of our property is mapped as Proposed Category C (Category C areas are high-value regrowth vegetation). The map boundaries appear to be quite arbitrary as they do not delineate any particular topographic, vegetational, geological, hydrological or edaphic feature/s. The fact that it is proposed to reclassify the area from non regulated vegetation to high value regrowth I find completely bewildering. As previously outlined there now exists in the delineated area a totally artificial ecosystem which can never revert to anything like the natural ecosystem which existed. The mapped area includes a significant area of planted hoop pine (definitely not local provenance), a citrus orchard, some planted hybrid *Pinus* sp. plus quite a few camphor laurel trees. Of the native tree species in the area the majority consist of two species of *Acacia*. These trees are near the end of their lifespan and are dying out because of natural causes. There are some *Eucalyptus tereticornis* in the area but this species cannot be

considered under threat as it has an extraordinarily wide distribution is eastern Australia (plus cumulatively very large plantings (commercial and household) in many, many other countries. There are a couple of *Lophostemon confertus* trees, ironbark (very unhealthy dead crowns) and a moth eaten *Callistemon* in the area. I fail to see how this system can be considered as Proposed Category C (Category C areas are high-value regrowth vegetation).

The Pre-clearing Regional Ecosystem is '*E.cloeziانا* open forest on metamorphics +/- inter-bedded volcanics' and an ecosystem of concern. The only Gympie messmate of our property are trees planted as an avenue along our driveway. There trees are almost certainly not from Neusavale provenance (maybe Woondum). There is no way the area will ever revert to anything like the pre-clearing vegetation through 'mapping the area as 'High-value regrowth'.

Thank you for considering my submission in your deliberations.

JA Simpson



 Gympie 4570

20th April 2016