

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:
vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au**Post:** **Fax:** 07 3553 6699Research Director
Agriculture and Environment
Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Organisation or individual:	The RM Pegler Family Trust & S&J Pegler Pastoral Trust				
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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. Farmers have long called for certainty with the vegetation management regulatory framework. With the Bill being introduced when farmers are on their knees with over 86% of Queensland in drought conditions, it should come as no surprise that I am totally opposed to continued uncertainty and attacks on the viability of myself, the long-term sustainability of my business as well as attacks on fellow farmers.

On my property, the impact of the continual change in vegetation management regulation is that because I did not apply before this latest Bill, I missed the opportunity to secure a PMAV and it looks like now there will be no possibility for this.

On my property, the impact of the continual change in vegetation management regulation is that there is no continuity of guidelines, making management of our businesses even harder. Regulations are being made to attract political votes not encourage sound management practices. We want the opportunity to drought proof our business for a sustainable future. No farmer I know is going to knowingly use methods that damage the land his livelihood/livestock/family rely on. Farmers have proven to be the best land managers regarding weeds and feral animal control, whereas various Governments have not invested in their own land to manage the weeds and pests. (e.g. National Parks)

Because we live in an area prone to drought & dry seasons we must have the ability to undertake fodder harvesting with the minimum of delay. The self-assessable codes enable us to do that. Failure to keep these methods in place would send us back in time to where livestock welfare is compromised with stock hungry and losing condition while waiting for red tape to be processed. This is not land clearing – it is an essential dry season management practice in these areas, which then regenerates vegetation twice as thick as the original. The ability to choose the areas we wish to use for fodder harvesting enables us to do so where there is adequate water and where there may have been an isolated rainfall event to freshen up the mulga. It is no use being told we can harvest a certain area if there is no water there for the stock.

The inclusion of Reverse Onus of Proof in Queensland Government's Vegetation Management Framework is a direct affront to the rights and liberties of farmers. Reverse Onus relegates farmers clearing vegetation to a level below that of criminals, where they are denied common justice under Section 24 of the Criminal Code: Mistake of fact. In Queensland not only are farmers presumed guilty until they are proven innocent, but they are refused the possibility of making a mistake.

Signed:	
Address:	 Eromanga, Qld 4480
Date:	17/04/2016