

RECEIVED

28 APR 2016

AEC

Submission No. 202

N. Wheatley

BEAUDESERT QLD 4285

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

16th April 2016

To whom it may concern:

Re: Strongly oppose the Proposed Vegetation Management Bill



In the late 1800s my mother's family worked tirelessly on the land for many years and mustered cattle from Crookwell NSW to the Fossils Downs in the Kimberlys Northern Territory. They relied on the land and have instilled on the latter generations like myself the importance of caring for it. Therefore I have the knowledge and I understand the value in preserving the environment. However, this proposed legislation is restricting my right as an innocent freehold landowner to effectively care and manage for my very own property. I have resided on my 24.22 hectare property since 1988. For over 27 years we have enjoyed having our own space and my daughter has had the opportunity to manage her horses.

Under the proposed Vegetation Management Bill, almost ALL of my property has been zoned as high regrowth vegetation (see attached map). It was only through word of mouth that it came to my attention. I am shocked to hear the extremity of this proposed bill and the rights I will lose as a freehold landowner if this bill were to pass in parliament. My major concerns are:

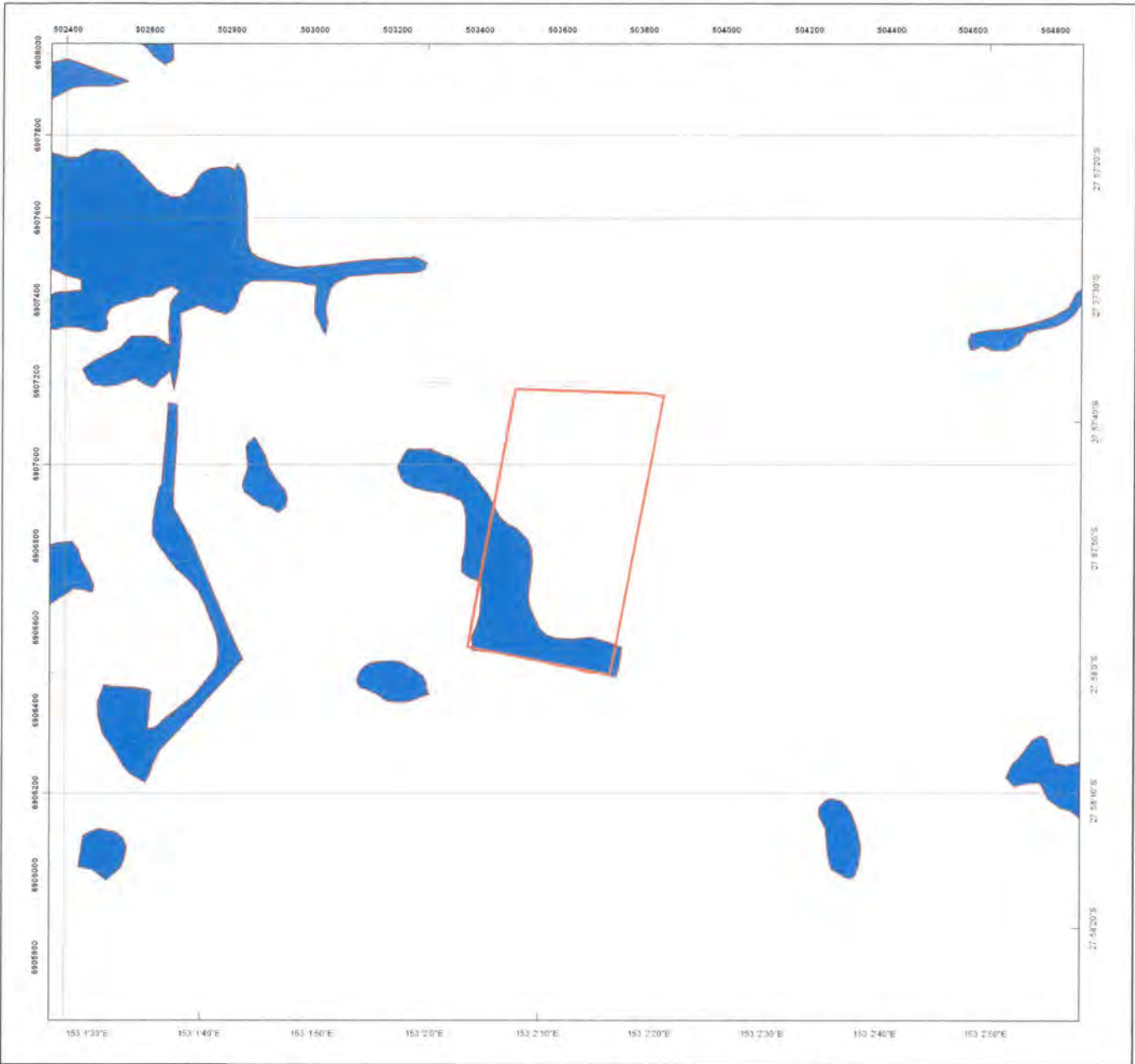
- **Extreme Fire Hazzard and Personal Safety.** I am 75 years of age. Over the years my property has become increasingly more fire hazardous due to my restricted ability to care for the property. To access my home, you must travel a narrow and steep driveway through thick scrub and trees. The Category C exemption for clearing around buildings will do very little. Particularly, if fire crews have to travel through a bushfire to access me and my dwelling. Ideally, I would like the opportunity to selectively clear areas of the land of my choice to keep me safe. – This legislation WILL remove my right, safety and choice.
- **No direct consultation from parliament.** If my property rights were going to be significantly affected, I deserve to be officially informed. It was only through word of mouth that this came to my attention. I am devastated that my rights as a freehold property owner will no longer exist if this bill were to pass in parliament and yet no one has had the decency to inform me. There should be a form of individual negotiation between ALL affected landowners and the government.
- **Guilty unless proven innocent.** I was unaware of any of these proposed changes. IF I had removed patches of trees on my property I could have then faced significant fines for doing something that the majority of the population deem to be both common sense and practical in order to keep me safe. Why are criminals given greater rights than I?
- **Lack of compensation and devaluation in property.** I have worked very hard over many years and it should be my time to reap the rewards. It saddens me to realise that my property will devalue significantly due to the restricting nature of this legislation. I deserve compensation if the government chooses to remove my entire rights as a landowner.

I am greatly concerned for my rights as a freehold landowner and the threat the 'high value' regrowth vegetation will pose to the safety of my dwelling and above all myself.

Regards,


Naomi R Wheatley


5.1 Regulated vegetation management map



Regulated Vegetation Management Map

Please note, the Government has proposed changes to the Category C and Category R areas which are shown on the Proposed Regulated Vegetation Management Map. For more information on these changes, please refer to the Department's website.

Legend

- Lot and Plan
- Category A area (Vegetation offsets/compliance notices/VDecs)
- Category B area (Remnant vegetation)
- Category C area (High-value regrowth vegetation)
- Category R area (Reef regrowth watercourse vegetation)
- Category X area (Vegetation not regulated under the VMA)
- Water
- Area not categorised
- Cadastral line
- Property boundaries shown are provided as a locational aid only



This product is projected into:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Disclaimer:
While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the product being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.

Additional information required for the assessment of vegetation values is provided in the accompanying "Vegetation Management Supporting map". For further information go to the web site: www.dnrm.qld.gov.au or contact the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

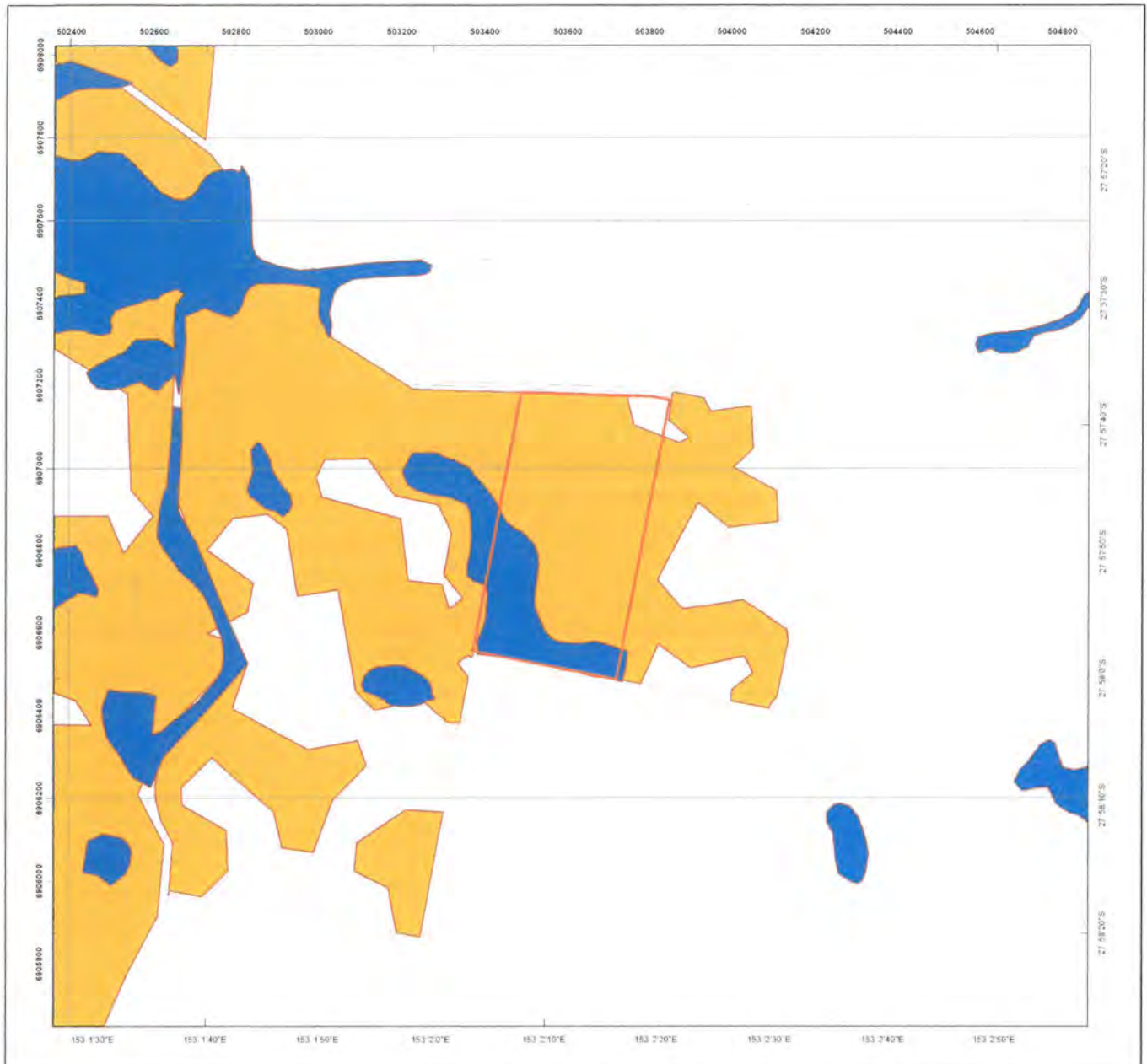
Digital data for the regulated vegetation management map is available from the Queensland Spatial Portal at <http://www.information.qld.gov.au/>

This map is updated on a monthly basis to ensure new PMAVs are included as they are approved.



5.3 Proposed regulated vegetation management map

Submission No. 202



Proposed Regulated Vegetation Management Map

Please note, the Government has proposed changes to the Category C and Category R areas which are shown on this map. For more information on these changes, please refer to the Department's website.

Legend

- Lot and Plan
- Category A area (Vegetation offsets/compliance notices/VDecs)
- Category B area (Remnant vegetation)
- Category C area (High-value regrowth vegetation)
- Category R area (Reef regrowth watercourse vegetation)
- Category X area (Vegetation not regulated under the VMA)
- Proposed category C area
- Proposed category R area
- Water
- Area not categorised
- Cadastral line
- Property boundaries shown are provided as a locational aid only



0 130 260 390 520 650 m

This product is projected into:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Disclaimer:
While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the product being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.

Additional information required for the assessment of vegetation values is provided in the accompanying "Proposed Vegetation Management Supporting map". For further information go to the web site: www.dnrm.qld.gov.au or contact the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Digital data for the regulated vegetation management map is available from the Queensland Spatial Portal at <http://www.information.qld.gov.au/>

This map is updated on a monthly basis to ensure new PMAVs are included as they are approved.



Queensland Government

