

20-APRIL-2016.

Submission No. 231

BRUCE WAGNER

BOONAH QLD

4310

TO AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

SUBMISSION ON VEGETATION-MANAGEMENT
(REINSTATEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL 2016.

I am shocked at the inaccuracy of the maps that go with this bill on the high value regrowth. I have looked at land that is mapped 12.8.23 Regional Ecosystems that does not have any *Acacia Harpophylla* (brigalow). And *Casuarina cristata* (belah) and *Eucalyptus populnea* (Poplar box) does not even grow in this area. it is actually grass and lantana with a couple pepperina trees.

There is land with grass and lantana that is mapped as Ecosystem 12.9-10.6 which is brigalow and belah plus 12.9-10.15 meaning hoop pine semi-evergreen vine thicket, bottle tree, leopard tree, crows ash, holly bush.

I have found dozens of properties with black wattle and lantana mapped as 12.8.13/12.8.3 hoop pine and bunya pine around Mt French. At Mt. Alford there is black wattle mapped as hoop pine. Hawi pine.

at Taroom there is hundreds of acres mapped as high value regrowth.

This mapping has been done by a computer in D.N.R.M. and is a complete dud. like the mapping of endangered regrowth back in 2009 was.

I have my own DBR Doyer which is waiting on repairs. Parked up on a hill at Mt Asford in grass paddock with some scattered lantana about. But by Jacqui Trads bill she introduced to parliament on 17th March, it is standing in hoaps pine vine scrub. All my future clients have lantana + black wattle mapped as high value regrowth. It could be the August sitting before this bill is debated that means ~~four~~ 4 months to see if this becomes law. There would be a lot of other people in the same boat. The self accessible code sounds good in theory but in practice we cant use it.

In 2002 approx the botanists from the Old Herbarium spent a whole day on mt French with me correcting the maps of my property. They told me it was one of the best properties they had been in with the type of timber I have and privately owned in Qld.


The government should be held accountable for releasing false and fraudulent maps of Qld landowners to the general population of Australia.

With the mapping so bad you cant administer other laws like reverse onus of proof and removing "mistake of fact" defence for vegetation clearing offences.

I have enclosed 3 pages of our local Newspaper with photos on Page 11 of your mapping.

Yours Truly

Bruce James Wagner





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>> P4



Photo PETER TRUER

NEW TREE CLEARING CHANGES

BOON or BANE?

by WENDY CREIGHTON

THE State Government's proposed tightening of the tree clearing laws has been the cause of bitter debate.

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad introduced the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 into Parliament arguing that the State could not sustain the current rate of tree clearing - an estimated 300,000 hectare per year.

But Beaudesert MP, Jon Krause, says that farmers and landholders cannot sustain the impact of the proposed legislation.

Mr Krause was speaking after he hosted forums in Aratula and Beaudesert last week which gave local landholders a chance to voice their concerns to two Shadow Ministers.

Adding to local concerns is the accuracy of the vegetation mapping at the heart of the new laws.

A Mt French landholder has ground-truthed some of the maps across properties in former vine scrub country and found that listings indicating they were home to endangered ecosystems were totally inaccurate. >> MORE P10, P11



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Photos are on third page -

PROPOSED NEW TREE CLEARING LAWS

Bid to halt tree clearing rate

Gov't moves to tighten vegetation protection

THE Labor State Government has moved to reinstate vegetation protection measures to slow the tree clearing rate which currently stands at 300,000 hectares per year.

In mid March, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, introduced the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to Parliament and it is currently being considered by the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee.

That committee has been tasked with providing a report to Parliament by June 30 and its call for submissions from the public close on Monday (April 25).

Speaking on the proposed legislation, the Deputy Premier said that in the past, tree clearing rates in Queensland were unacceptable.

"So we took action and we got results," she said.

"The former LNP government inherited sound, effective vegetation management laws and gutted them.

"The Palaszczuk Government promised to restore Queensland's nation-leading vegetation management laws. This Bill delivers on that promise."

The Statewide Land Cover and Tree Study for 2012-2014 (SLATS) showed that the annual rate of clearing increased from 153,638 hectares before the LNP was elected to a new level

where almost 300,000 hectares are now being cleared every year.

Environment Minister Steven Miles said this demonstrated that tree-clearing rates in Queensland had once again reached unacceptable levels.

"That's an area more than twice the size of Brisbane or 10 times the size of the city of Rockhampton being cleared every single year," Dr Miles said.

"We're seeing forests and trees that provide habitat for vulnerable native wildlife like koalas being bulldozed at alarming rates. That simply has to stop."

The Bill reinstates the vegetation management framework in place prior to 2012 by:

- reinstating the protection of high value regrowth on freehold and indigenous land;
- removing provisions which permit clearing applications for high value agriculture and irrigated high value agriculture; and
- reinstating compliance provisions for the reverse onus of proof and removing the 'mistake of fact' defence for vegetation clearing offences.

"In order to address the risk of panic clearing," Dr Miles added, "the Bill includes retrospective conditions that will require restoration of any unlawful clearing that occurs between the introduction and passage of the Bill."



■ Beaudesert MP, Jon Krause with Shadow Natural Resources Minister, Andrew Cripps and Shadow Agriculture Minister, Deb Frecklington at the landholder forum in Beaudesert last week.

'The maps are a mess'

Landholders anxious about tree clearing laws

FARMERS and landowners in the Beaudesert electorate voiced their concerns about the impact of the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act at meetings in the Scenic Rim, last week.

Beaudesert MP, Jon Krause, said he had organised two infor-

mation forums for farmers and landowners in Beaudesert and Aratula to learn more about what he described as "Labor's aggressive amendments to the vegetation management framework".

"I invited Shadow Agriculture Minister, Deb Frecklington and Shadow Natural Resources Minister, Andrew Cripps, to come into the electorate to provide my constituents with an understanding of what this Bill means for them," Mr Krause said.

"Alarming, some landholders are telling me the restrictions on their properties are significantly greater than under the previous Bligh Labor Government - such as regrowth being reclassified as remnant vegetation - the maps are a mess."

Mrs Frecklington told the meetings that she believed the current vegetation management framework put in place by the former LNP Government in 2013, needed to remain in place to provide opportunities for agriculture to grow.

"Farmers and landowners need certainty to be able to plan for the future and while Labor's proposed amendments certainly put roadblocks in front of agriculture, the constant chopping and changing is also a serious concern."

Mr Cripps said the LNP was committed to ... "defending high value agriculture approvals, securing regrowth vegetation for freehold property owners and maintaining the flexibility of self assessable codes".

"Given that the Palaszczuk Government's proposed legislation is retrospective and seeks to reinstate the reversal of the onus of proof, the LNP will also be fighting hard to prevent farmers and landholders being treated like criminals."

Mr Krause summation of the proposed legislation was that ... "the Bill had been introduced without any proper consultation, any real compensation, or any common sense".

Petition to save jobs and rights

AGFORCE launched a petition on Monday in opposition to the proposed new vegetation management laws ... "that take away farmers' property rights and jeopardise jobs in regional Queensland".

AgForce General President Grant Maudsley said the petition provided a platform for Queenslanders concerned about the impact of the new laws to send a message to the Palaszczuk Government.

"These outrageous changes to the Vegetation Management Framework are completely unacceptable. The laws will restrict supply and drive up food prices, stifle development and cost jobs, and mean farmers are guilty until they prove their innocence," he said.

"Farmers work hard to ensure they manage their land sustainably and they need security and certainty for in-

vestment. These laws take away that certainty and economic security.

"I would encourage all Queenslanders concerned about regional jobs and the price of food to show their support for Queensland farmers and landholders whose livelihoods will be affected by the Palaszczuk Government's disastrous new laws."

The petition requests the Queensland Parliament not to support the new vegetation management legislation in its current form and to reject amendments that would water down existing property rights and remove opportunities for sustainable agricultural production.

A copy of the e-petition can be found at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petitions>. The petition closes on Friday, August 12.

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PROPOSED NEW TREE CLEARING LAWS



■ The lantana in the foreground and the grassland in the middle ground are shown on the vegetation mapping as an endangered Brigalow scrub ecosystem containing semi-evergreen vine thicket species which may include *Casuarina cristata* and *Eucalyptus populnea* - a listing that is clearly wrong says Mt French landholder, Bruce Wagner who took the Guardian to this property to indicate "just how wrong the maps are". Photo PETER TRUER

'Maps are clueless'

Vegetation mapping highly inaccurate says landholder

by WENDY CREIGHTON

MT FRENCH landholder, Bruce Wagner, says he is shocked at the inaccuracy of the maps that are at the foundation of the proposed changes to the vegetation protection legislation.

"Just one example is this local property - it's mostly grassland and lantana with a bit of regrowth," Mr Wagner indicated to the Fassifern Guardian as he took them on site.

"But according to the maps, this property contains signifi-

cant portions of an endangered ecosystem based on Brigalow vine thickets with other trees listed that don't even grow around here and never have."

Mr Wagner says he has checked the mapping of a lot of the properties in the scrub country.

"From what I can see, the maps seem to be clueless in the scrub country.

"If the government can't get the mapping right, then the legislation is nothing but a very sick joke."



■ Much of the land depicted in this photograph is shown on the vegetation mapping as containing an endangered Brigalow scrub ecosystem containing semi-evergreen vine thicket species which may include *Casuarina cristata* and *Eucalyptus populnea*. Photo PETER TRUER



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MARKET REPORTS

SILVERDALE CATTLE SALE MARKET REPORT

Wednesday 13th April 2016 606 HEAD

Description	¢/kg	Vendor	kg	\$
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Cows	228.2	PB Fenech	625	1426.00
Cows	228.0	RW & VM Turgeon	655	1493.00
Meatworks Bulls	263.2	K Brown	490	1290.00
Pasture Ox (Full Mouth)	261.2	Mt Mort Grazing	720	1881.00
Pasture Steers	292.2	PK Ahearn	427	1247.00
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Feeder Heifers	296.2	GW Thomson	427	1263.00
Pasture Heifers	300.0	SD & ME Cahill	365	1095.00
Yearling Heifers	294.2	SD & ME Cahill	265	780.00
Vealer Steers	318.2	LJ Nicholson	203	646.00
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Auctioneer's comments: A mixed quality yarding of local cattle came to hand this week; with all types slightly easier on last weeks' rates.

Sales: 'Every' Wednesday commencing at 8.30am at 5380 Cunningham Highway Silverdale

Next sales: 20th, 27th April - Curfew 7.00pm Tuesday

Bookings taken and highly recommended

Demand for prime, store and bobby calves

BEAUDESERT CALF SALE Monday 18th April 2016

Heavy calves	A/C KM Harvey	Selling to \$760
Heavy calves	A/C T Dickson	Selling to \$740
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Medium calves	A/C D & B Willmann	Selling to \$700
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Rearer calves	A/C P & N Klan	Selling to \$105
Weaner Pigs	A/C CW & CM Gee	Selling to \$80

Comments: A top quality yarding of local calves sold to a very firm market on recent sales.

Sales: 'Fortnightly' on Monday's commencing at 11am at Helen Street, Beaudesert

Next Sales: Monday 2nd, 16th, 30th May 2016

Curfew Monday 10am

Demand for all types of calves, goats, sheep and pigs.

UPCOMING SALES

BEAUDESERT CALF SALES 'Fortnightly' on Monday's

11am at Helen Street, Beaudesert

Next sales: 2nd, 16th, 30th May 2016 - Curfew Mon 10.00am

Demand for all types of calves, goats, sheep and pigs

SILVERDALE LIVE-WEIGHT & STORE SALE Saturday 30th April & 7th May at 12 noon

Curfew for Live-weight cattle - 7.00pm Friday

Curfew for store cattle - 10.00am Saturday

Bookings being taken and recommended

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Curfew for Live-weight cattle - 7pm Friday

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Saturday 18th June at 12.00 noon

Bookings being taken and recommended

Curfew - 10am Saturday

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Ipswich Prime Cattle	Thursday 12th May
Esk Prime Cattle	Friday 20th May
Boonah Prime Cattle	Friday 27th May
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RNA - Prime Cattle	Friday 5th August
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