

RECEIVED

26 APR 2016

AEC

I ALSO SUBMIT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PRESENT
LABOUR GOV. REFERRING TO A REPORT THAT 350,000 ACRES
OF LAND CLEARING TAKES PLACE ANNUALLY IN QLD.
WHEN IN THE SAME REPORT IT STATES THAT
450,000 ACRES OF REGROWTH TAKES PLACE
ANNUALLY IN QLD. QUEENSLANDS GRASSLANDS
ARE THICKENING UP WITH TREES EVERY YEAR
THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION OF THE IMPENDING
LEGISLATION. [REDACTED]

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 6699
Research Director
Agriculture and Environment
Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Organisation or Individual:

STASO TORRISI

Principal contact:

SEBASTIAN JOHN TORRISI

Position:

OWNER MANAGER MIXED FARMING

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email address:

Street address:

Suburb/City:

DUKUNU

State:

QLD

Postcode:

4702

Postal address:

Suburb/City:

DUKUNU

State:

QLD

Postcode:

4702

**Is all or part of your
submission confidential?**

Yes, all ☐

Yes, part ☐

No ☒

☒ (copy box to indicate answer)

**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.

*A.

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which the 2016 Bill intends to amend.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework	
Background The removal of High Value Agriculture (HVA) and Irrigated HVA (IHVA) affects farmers in regions differently, with those in the north particularly hard hit. Throughout northern Queensland energy and protein become limiting in cattle diets during the dry season and this can cause farmers issues with stock survival and welfare through years of drought. HVA and IHVA permits provide farmers in northern Queensland with the opportunity to grow fodder and grain for supplementing in the dry season and finishing off stock for market. The removal of HVA and IHVA is in direct conflict with the Australian Government White Paper on the Development of Northern Australia. A current example of this is \$220 million being spent to upgrade roads to communities across Cape York, but Queensland State Government Vegetation Management Framework is preventing indigenous and non-indigenous land holders from developing agriculture projects. In central and southern Queensland, HVA and IHVA provides opportunity for farmers to drought-proof properties and stabilise production and income over variable climatic and market conditions. Sustainable clearing for relatively small pockets of high value agriculture enable agricultural production to improve continuity of supply to food processors and meet the increasing requirements of international markets and Australia's Free Trade Agreements. Indigenous development is particularly compromised by the re-inclusion of High Value	