

[REDACTED]

11th April 2016

Research Director

Agriculture & Environment Committee

Parliament House

Brisbane QLD 4000

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Dear Submission Committee

We are 3rd Generation Farmers/Graziers in the Herbert River Catchment Area west of Tully, we have 3 adult sons who are actively involved in food production making them 4th generation farmers.

We currently have a Development Permit for Operational Work – Clearing native vegetation (high-value agriculture clearing) on [REDACTED]

State Development, Infrastructure and Planning [REDACTED]

We run 4000 head of cattle and grow corn and sorghum silage and hay to supply our feedlot on Wombinoo Station. Finance to establish this Feedlot was part of a Queensland Government Grant when previous Labour Governments introduced restrictions on land clearing previously.

We also produce 50,000 trays of Avocados and 2000 ton of potatoes for the domestic and export markets through southern Merchants.

How can we as food producers have a long term succession plan for a profitable business when policy makers keep changing the goal post and deny us as a Family economic succession plan for the future.

The Federal Government have identified agricultural opportunities for food production in North Queensland in their recent White Paper.

We as producers have identified opportunity when we bought Wombinoo Station with the goal of growing beef and horticultural crops for export.

In the recent 5 years we have set up Jonsson's Farm Market – www.jonssonsfarmmarket.com.au in Cairns employing 60 people to supply prominently local food to local people. Stage 2 of our Business model was to move into Export in the near future. This proposed legislation severely handicaps our future plans.

Unfortunately, droughts are a thing of the past, present and future. Being able to clear land and develop it to grow and conserve fodder in good years for those drought years is an important sustainable practice.

and productive? For the last 2 years' tax payers have had to subsidise producers in drought areas to keep cattle alive.

Recommendation

Tax deductible incentives like we had in the 1980 need to be reintroduced for land development, fodder storage, water infrastructure so that producers are more sustainable in drought years and possibly removing subsidies as an incentive to be more sustainable.

Panic Land Clearing

In some cases, there possibly has been more land cleared with the current Vegetation Management Laws.

Recommendation

Long term policies on Land development need to be implemented giving the land owner time to implement for long term sustainability.

Carbon Emissions

In explanatory notes put forward by the Vegetation Management and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 with reference to

- Reinstatement of a responsible vegetation management framework to more effectively manage vegetation clearing in Queensland thereby reducing clearing rates and consequential carbon emissions.

Recommendation

An enquiry into carbon emissions and climate change needs to be conducted as present policies on climate change are having a bigger impact on the economy than climate change itself.

- Increased atmospheric carbon dioxide increases food production.
- If carbon dioxide drives global warming, how is it that we have had six major ice ages in the past, yet atmospheric carbon dioxide was far higher than now?
- IPCC states that only 3% of annual carbon dioxide emissions are from human activity which included emissions from industry.

Summary

It was Agriculture that helped to build Australia, the Mining Boom is over and if Agriculture is to be the next Mining Boom the Palaszczuk Government and the Deputy Premier of Queensland Jackie Trad MP – Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade was doing her job she would be encouraging development for Queensland not halting economic growth, suppressing entrepreneurship, and damaging our international competitiveness.

Queensland's Government Debt is out of control, we should not be selling Government Assets to Foreign Ownership, but helping Aussie like myself to build a better Australia. This proposed Legislation is a kick in the guts, not only for myself but other land holders trying to build a better Nation for all.

As we are one of the successful Applicants to receive a Land Clearing Permit we have outlaid \$22,000.00 for the Permit Fee and the Consultant Fee. We have also outlaid in excess of \$800,000.00 for Bull Dozers and farming equipment for this development project. How does the Government plan on reimbursing us for Capital expenditure and fees already outlaid and compensating us for loss of potential economic production?

As Farmers we have an interest in protecting and conserving our properties not Politicians in Brisbane who are far from the reality of farm life. Where are our Property rights?

How can any Government possibly think about making it Law that 'reverse onus of proof' basically you are guilty till proven innocent? Even armed robber, paedophiles and murderers are innocent until proven guilty.....BUT NOT FARMER'S .

Yours sincerely



Warren & Gail Jonsson

EVERY FAMILY NEEDS A FARMER