

## 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:

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Post: Fax: 07 3553 6699

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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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

Specifically, I believe that the Reverse Onus of Proof is clearly discriminatory, as only primary producers are subjected to this undemocratic measure. It is apparent that farmers are considered to be on a level lower than the worst of criminals. Secondly, removal of HVA and irrigated HVA restricts farmers from attaining the ultimate potential of their properties and reduces their capability to survive drought. This provision will stifle the ongoing development of Queensland agricultural resources, with resultant negative impact on exports and the national economy.

Signed:	
Address:	 PROSERPINE 4800
Date:	23/4/2016