



# Mareeba

## SHIRE COUNCIL

Submission No. 351

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Council Ref: ENV-REV pf:kb

Your Ref:

22 April 2016

Mr Rob Hansen  
The Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir

### ***VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (REINSTATEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2016***

Mareeba Shire is a large shire with the main economic driver being agriculture. In the eastern portion of the area the agriculture is largely intensive operations on smaller farms while the western areas are given over to broad scale grazing properties.

The ability to open up additional areas is of critical importance to our land holders and to the shire, region and state. The primary producers of this region not only are innovative but also resilient. Following the closure of the Tobacco industry in this shire the farmers have found ways of making best use of the land and have developed new cropping industries.

These new crops have also enabled them to start to use land previously seen as unproductive. In addition old lands which have lain fallow since the tobacco days are being opened up again. However they have regrowth vegetation on them and would now become unavailable if this new legislation is brought to force.

Likewise our graziers are being able to open up additional areas with the availability of modern technologies. If they are unable to undertake vegetation clearing this will seriously inhibit the further growth of the industry,

The Federal Government is placing special emphasis on the development of Northern Australia and Far North Queensland, and Mareeba Shire specifically, is exceptionally well positioned to develop and support this.

Our produce is well regarded in the Asian markets which are in close proximity. Given our climate and resources our farmers have the potential to grow the regional and state economy significantly but the reintroduction of this legislation will certainly inhibit this and we urge the Government to reconsider its position.

Yours sincerely

**TOM GILMORE**  
**MAYOR**