

24 April 2016

The Research Directors,
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Research Directors

I wish to lodge an objection with your committee in relation to the state governments intended changes to the vegetation management laws. As the owner/ occupier of the [REDACTED], plus several adjoining lots, I do so for the following reasons;

- Inability of Department Officers to distinguish between native timber and various species of woody weeds for example weeds such as lantana, boxthorn, grounset etc.
- No recognition of the ability of certain species to regenerate both by way of seedlings and suckers.
- The re-introduction of the reverse onus of proof in contrary to the Westminster system and removes a landowners' right to be assumed innocent until proven guilty.
- The abolition of the 'mistake of fact' it is truly unfair so far as a landowner can be punished for incorrect information, maps and advice from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- It is ludicrous to suggest that someone with an urban background looking at a photograph or map which are not always accurate, knows more about maintaining a block of land or farm, than the owner who has worked, lived and farmed on said land doing fencing, weed management as well as crop and vegetation management for the past 40 years.
- Little consideration has been given to maintaining the land for production, let alone increasing production for our growing Australian population and overseas markets. A balance needs to be maintained for grazing, farming and crop production, as well as sound tree and vegetation management laws.
- There is no acknowledgement of the role that the increased pasture growth has in the reduction of carbon, much of which is returned to the soil through manure and process of decomposition.

As a fifth generation primary producer it is a great opportunity to bring to your attention my concerns about the proposed new legislation. I believe after 40 years working in the industry that I have gained much knowledge and experience from using sound environmental practices in keeping the land in a productive condition to still be able to farm in a sustainable and responsible manner.

Yours sincerely

G. R. Fearby

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[REDACTED]
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