

**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:** Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council**Principal contact:** Ross Higgins**Position:** Chief Executive Officer**Telephone:****Fax:****Mobile:****Email address:****Street address:****Suburb/City:**

Hope Vale

**State:** Qld**Postcode:** 4895**Postal address:**

As Above

**Suburb/City:****State:****Postcode:****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").


This process will remove the opportunity for future economic opportunity for the residents of Hope Vale. Employment and economic development is a high priority for our Council due to high unemployment levels in this area.

Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council (HVASC) has a perfect opportunity to be able to provide this opportunity as it is in a unique position to own a parcel of freehold land within its Shire Boundary that we can use to attract investment in industry and/or agriculture. There is already a 50 ha banana farm which during peak production employs approx. 40 local Hope Vale residents. Any future enterprises, if developed and planned well could at least match or exceed that number of employees. Also the Banana Farm may not be able to be expanded.

The land that we have has always been farming land however over a number of years was not used to its potential by the previous owner and now prime land is covered by vegetation. Proposed maps provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines indicate that we will not be able to use this land if the legislation is amended.

HVASC welcomes the State Government's commitment to develop large-scale business and tourism ventures in remote indigenous communities however changes to vegetation management laws must be scrapped if the Government is serious about job creation..

Our Council recently attended an Investment Forum in Cairns where representatives from the Queensland Investment Corporation, Treasury officials, Queensland Resources Council, DATSIP and Indigenous groups discussed the plans for future investment in indigenous communities and especially Cape York. The changes to the Vegetation Management legislation will go a long way to stifle any proposed investment. Queensland's Indigenous Affairs Minister Curtis Pitt was reported as saying there was a lot of untapped potential in northern Australia.

Signed:	
Address:	C/- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Hope Vale Qld 4895
Date:	25 April 2016