

To whom it may concern. Regarding the Vegetation management Bill brought to parliament on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016

My Name is Corey Back. I am a 32 year old Primary Producer who has grown up in a family of sheep & cattle producers. I have been investing all my money in the last 4 years to grow my agricultural business. Currently our business is not at a stage to support us as a family so I work full time as a property manager. We are passionate about the pastoral industry and live & breathe it day & night. Our dream is to own our own sheep & cattle property. We as a family owned & managed operation have been struggling with the drought & rising costs of production. e.g power prices, registrations, insurance, Fuel, wages,. I see this bill as a negative effect on us being able to fulfill our dream of supplying food to our country & contributing to the wealth of our nation. WHY? As young farmers starting out we cannot afford to buy land that is fully developed as it is just too expensive. We could however afford to buy land that is underdeveloped as that is the best way to get started in the rural industry, by purchasing a small property & increasing its carrying capacity. Hence forth increasing the value of the land (increases rates payable to local gov.) This is only achieved in 1 way that is by replacing trees with grass or a crop. This is not harmful to the environment as grass or crop is much more efficient at reducing carbon emissions than trees. There is less erosion from a grass pdk than a pdk filled with trees. Not to mention it is impossible to produce any kind of livestock if all they have to eat is trees.

Yes the environment is important & yes we all want the GBR to thrive but there is no proof that this bill will have any positive impacts on either of these assets. It will however stifle production & cause Qld primary producers to be uncompetitive on the global market.

It will cause land values to drop which could lower the equity level for some producers & their bank may have to put pressure on them to reduce their debt level which will start a vicious cycle of forced sales & declining land values.

Where is the revenue for the state forecast to come from for the next 5 years is it mining, is it manufacturing, is it tourism, is it agriculture. Or is it coming from the green groups such as WWF who are so keen to see our agricultural land turned into national parks. Which need to be managed better to reduce pests, weeds & control the fire risk. All this costs money & needs experienced people that want to do the job. (they are called farmers not rangers)

Why should the Queensland tax payer be asked to fund any compensation claims by effected landholders.

As landowners we don't want a handout we just need to be given the trust to look after the land as we have for the last 150 years, & not be used as a cheap kicking boy to pin the climate change damage of the Great Barrier Reef on.

In Summary: This bill will directly have a negative effect on the following

Productivity of Primary Producers:

Efficiency of rural Businesses

Cause family owned farms to become unviable

Land values will change some types of land will be devalued,

Land that is already improved or naturally open will become overvalued.

Indirect effects include

Less revenue for local communities through less spending on infrastructure by landholders

Loss of jobs for local contractors.

Australian Agriculture has a reputation worldwide as being clean and green & top quality I don't believe this bill will in any way help that reputation.

If we are not stepping forward to encourage Primary producers to supply this country with food & fibre we Australia will be heading towards being a net importer of produce. Let alone feeding the other nations of the world. This bill in my view is a backward step, And heading totally in the wrong direction

I strongly urge for the sake of our farmers future this bill be completely scrapped.

Thankyou for letting me have my say.

Signed:



Of



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COREY J BACK  
27/4/16