
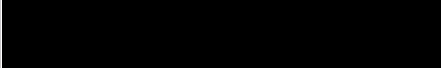


SUBMISSION TO:**Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2016****SUBMISSION COVER SHEET**

Closing date for submissions is 25 April 2016.

Please complete and submit this form with your submission to:

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Agriculture and Environment Committee
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BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Is all or part of your submission confidential?	Yes, all <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, part <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (copy box to indicate answer)		

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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 17th 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.

On my property, the impact of the continual change in vegetation management regulation is that I have had to alter my plans for future vegetation management significantly and this will negatively impact on my farm's viability. These constant changes and continued uncertainty are detrimentally affecting primary production and the profitability and value of our beef and sheep enterprise.

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which the 2016 Bill intends to amend.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework
<p>Proposed changes involving HVA and IRHA will limit the potential viability of primary producers further. Why is the Queensland government not supporting primary production once again and accepting the pressure of groups with no understanding of actual production practices and the importance of food and fibre to our nation? Primary producers deserve support not unfair, over the top legislation</p>
2. Re-introducing Reverse Onus-of-Proof
<p>Is this just a tactic to try to scare people from developing and improving their country. There is enough red tape to get through without unfair convictions.</p> <p>Once again the Queensland Government assumes that their rules and regulations are easily accessed and understood, which is not the case. I have personally approached my local DNR on numerous occasions to get clarification regarding mapping and land types and continually referred to the webpages. This lack of service is not good enough.</p>

How can you expect landholders to be 100% accurate when definitions are grey and mapping is inaccurate?
3. That no compensation will be payable to HVA, IHVA and Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) applicants during transitional arrangements
Those properties affected by the proposed HVA and IHVA deserve immediate compensation. Funds are invested in purchase of property/business and when blanket changes such as this are passed, businesses are put on hold. This would not be acceptable in any other industry, so why is it trying to be done to Agriculture?
4. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
Once again, inaccurate mapping is being used to hinder business development. The Queensland Government no longer has many DNR offices staffed with knowledgeable employees and they are not 'on the ground' assisting with the correction of maps etc.
5. Increasing Category R vegetation to include the Burdekin, Mackay, Whitsunday and Wet Tropics Great Barrier Reef catchments and additional catchments Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy.
Once again there is no 'on the ground' understanding of the issues, people in high rise buildings are making decisions which affect primary production.
6. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration
Farmers/producers need certainty within legislation to overcome change every election cycle so we can plan for the future and ensure investment availability and opportunities. Why is it that Primary Producers are expected to have their businesses hang in the balance while waiting for changes imposed upon us? Other business sectors are not dictated to like this.
We want the opportunity to drought proof our business for a sustainable future.
Farmers have proven to be the best land managers regarding weeds and feral animal control, whereas various Governments have not invested in their own land to manage the weeds and pests (e.g. National Parks). This exact situation is a joke in rural communities. National Parks are locked up and a breeding ground for pests. The supposed management is once again relaxed with very little done by government employees.

Signed:	[Redacted Signature]
Address:	[Redacted Address]
Date:	26.4.16

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