

25 April 2016

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

[vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee,

**Re: Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

CANEGROWERS is the peak representative body for Australian sugarcane growers and represents around 80% of cane growers. Membership ensures that growers' needs are represented at the highest possible levels of industry and government decision-making.

Certainty around a sensible and sustainable vegetation management framework is required so that farmers can manage their properties and businesses effectively. It is our view that Government's continued process of using vegetation management as a policy wedge must end. We believe this could be achieved by building on the existing vegetation management framework rather than starting a new by throwing out many of the effective and relevant provisions of this framework as is proposed within the Bill before the committee. CANEGROWERS is of the view that the current framework forms a solid foundation for cane growing and agriculture production in Queensland. Further we believe it has the ability to strike the right balance between proactive management of vegetation and protection.

CANEGROWERS have specific concerns that relate to the following areas;

- Treatment of the High Value Agriculture (HVA) and High Value Irrigated Agriculture (HVIA) clearing permit provisions. HVA and HVIA are legitimate reasons for precise and considered management of vegetation. The removal of this purpose is fundamentally against the interests of our members wanting to use HVA and HVIA provisions to sustainably grow or better manage their existing business.
- *Category R*. 50 metre buffers and the definition of watercourses, wetlands and drainage features and its potential impact to cane production.

Further to these specific points, CANEGROWERS as a member of the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) supports the QFF submission and its recommendations:

1. The Bill be rejected in its current form.
2. The Committee recommend to the government that they lead an open, constructive, consultation, process on the Vegetation Management Bill.

If it were to arise, we along with our industry colleagues would look forward to the opportunity to actually discuss vegetation management reforms. It is unfortunate that in relation to the Bill put before the committee, no such engagement has been offered by the Government and as such we cannot in any way support the premise of the proposed legislation.

Thank you for your efforts in working with the committee to review the Bill and should the committee require further information CANEGROWERS would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Galligan  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER