

SUBMISSION TO:

Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Closing date for submissions is 25 April 2016.

Submission No. 460

Please complete and submit this form with your submission to:

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Post/Fax: 07 3553 6699

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment
Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Organisation or individual:	FS & WP Holmes		
Principal contact:	Steve Holmes		
Position:	Owner		
Telephone:		Fax:	
Mobile:			
Email address:			
Street address:			
Suburb/City:	BOWEN	State:	QLD
		Postcode:	4805
Postal address:	As above		
Suburb/City:		State:	
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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.

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


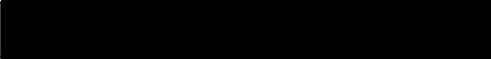
1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework
The removal of HVA and IHVA deny landholders of the opportunity to improve their financial position by diversification, drought management and to improve continuity of supply to customers.
2. Re-introducing Reverse Onus-of-Proof
The inclusion of Reverse Onus of Proof in the Qld Veg Management Framework is direct affront to the rights and liberties of farmers who can be treated like common criminals for a simple mistake. This law was used by previous government to hound honest landholders causing heartache and unending financial costs.
3. That no compensation will be payable to HVA, IHVA and Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) applicants during transitional arrangements
That no compensation will be payable under this amendment puts landholder who have been developing their properties to take advantage of future opportunities at a huge financial disadvantage with long term plans and also robs the country of development opportunities.

4. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
<p>The re-inclusion of HVR as an additional layer of regulation is an overt grab to enable governments to reach environmental targets and appease green groups with no recompense to landholders.</p> <p>The accuracy of the 2016 HVR is associated with areas of non-native vegetation similar to the maps of endanger species habitats being pedalled by green groups showing areas in the Bowen/Home Hill districts that I know of personally that have been cleared to control declared woody weeds - chinee apple, prickly acacia and parkonsania.</p>
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.
<p>This increase in Category R provisions is a further restriction on development in Northern Queensland, which is in stark contrast to the development imperatives contained with White Paper on Developing Northern Australia.</p> <p>The necessity to include ≥50 metre buffers along streamlines is blanket restriction that is better managed by ground truthing with experience, knowledge and input from the property manager.</p>
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

These amendments will have long lasting effects on the viability and management of our family property. Due partly to the constant change of legislation, banks are hesitant to lend and we are hesitant to undertake development plans to manage drought, tree thickening and various woody weeds that create less grass/ground cover that will enable sediment to runoff to the Great Barrier Reef. We follow BMP, have spent in the hundreds of thousands of dollars managing declared woody weeds and the self assessable codes have been very useful and cost effective for our business.

I believe that resources would be better spent with consultation and on ground truthing of vegetation and of activities to be undertaken planned to achieve the best possible results for landholders and the environment as we hope to use our land for further generations.

Signed:	
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Signed:	
Address:	 Bowen. 4805
Date:	25/4/16

Address:	
Date:	