

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:

KATHLEEN COLLIER PTY LTD

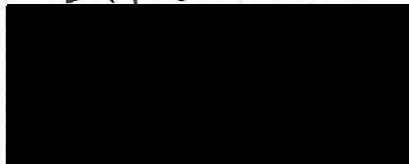
Principal contact:

JOHN COLLIER

Position:

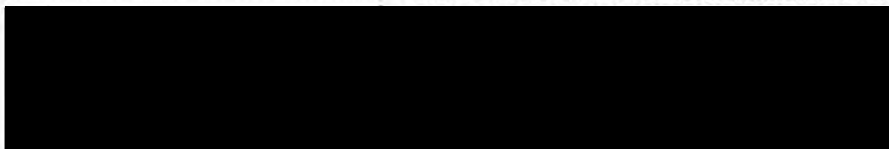
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4871

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:

N/A.

Reason for confidentiality:

N/A.

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 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.

THE Qld governments new computer Based "GLOBE" OVERLAYS HAS JUST BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR MY USE, TO EVALUATE VEG. MANAGEMENT ISSUES. CHANGES, AGAIN TO VMA, CONFUSE ME AND MY BUSINESSMANSHIP TO SUSTAINABLY & FINANCIALLY FEASIBLY PLAN AND IMPLEMENT, DECISIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT;

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework

Background

HVA and IHVA permits provide farmers in northern Queensland with the opportunity to grow fodder and grain for supplementing in the dry season and finishing off stock for market.

The removal of HVA and IHVA is in direct conflict with the Australian Government White Paper on the Development of Northern Australia. The Changes to the Vegetation Management Framework will prevent indigenous and non-indigenous land holders from developing agriculture projects.

I CANNOT PLAN, EVALUATE OR IMPLEMENT
*B. NEW PROJECTS SUCH AS HAY, GREEN FEED PRODUCTION FOR WEANERS AND TO FINISH CATTLE FOR MARKET. THIS REDUCES EFFICIENT MANAGEMENTS AND POTENTIAL CASH FLOW. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT OR ADVICE FROM ANY Qld GOVERNMENT AGENCY (DAFF) etc ON HIGH VALUE AGRICULTURE, NEW CROPS WORTHY OF PRODUCTION OR THE POTENTIAL FOR IRRIGATION,

11
TIMBER THICKENING IS DUE TO REDUCTION
IN WILD FIRES AND PRESCRIBED BURNING, PLUS
NOT BEING ALLOWED TO RINGBARK OR TORDON
TREATMENT "VOLUNTEERS" AND TREES IS OF
CONCERN.

2. Re-introducing Reverse Onus-of-Proof

Background

The inclusion of Reverse Onus of Proof in Queensland Government's Vegetation Management Framework is a direct affront to the rights and liberties of farmers. Reverse Onus relegates farmers clearing vegetation to a level below that of criminals, where they are denied common justice under Section 24 of the Criminal Code: Mistake of fact. In Queensland farmers will be presumed guilty until they are proven innocent. They are also refused the defence in making a mistake, despite known faults with the mapping layers.

*C. I CONSIDER MYSELF TO BE A COMMITTED
STEWARD / CUSTODIAN OF OUR PROPERTY
AND ALSO CONSIDER THAT I AM A "LAND
MANAGER".

TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM I HAVE COMPLETED
A DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE AT UNIVERSITY
OF WESTERN SYDNEY AND CERTIFICATE
IN LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AT J. Q. GATTON

ON THAT BASIS I AM: -

INSULTED
AFFRONTED

AT THIS STATE GOV'T.
BACK FLIP, MAKING
ME A POTENTIAL CRIMINAL.

3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land

Background

The re-inclusion of High Value Regrowth (HVR) as an additional layer of regulation on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land is an overt grab by Queensland Government in search of targets for meeting international treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol and more recently the 2015 Paris Climate Deal.

*E. I AM CONFUSED AT THE PAST, PRESENT AND
FUTURE MAPPING OF OUR PROPERTY. TO
MY KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO
INSPECTION OR "GROUND TRUTHING" OF
OUR PROPERTY.

WE SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED FOR AND
GAINED APPROVAL FOR A P.M.A.V. WITH
A VIEW TO SUSTAINABLE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.

WITH THIS PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR
PLAN I AM VERY CONFUSED AND UNHAPPY

4. 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.

Background

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 the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia.

The science is completely unproven on the necessity to include ≥ 50 metre buffers along streamlines. In fact, a study conducted in Queensland and published in 2016 shows that grass is a far better assimilator for nitrogen to prevent leaching into waterways. The current bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef is not caused by high nutrient runoff from agricultural lands.

*F. WE ARE NOT INVOLVED WITH CATEGORY R DIRECTLY BUT UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE

5. 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

*G. PLEASE CONSIDER THE VERY CLOSE VOTE = EQUAL WHEN THIS PROPOSAL WAS CONSIDERED BY PLT. THE SPEAKER MR. WELLINGTON HAD THE CASTING VOTE, LEADING TO THIS "DRACONIAN" LEGISLATION. AND THE SET UP OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE. IF THIS AMENDMENT ACTUALLY IS SUPPORTED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE AND IS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT, I FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF:
1 QUEENSLAND
2 FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND
3 NORTHERN AUSTRALIA AND 4 AUSTRALIA!!

Signed:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED]
Date:	19/4/16