

SUBMISSION TO:

Submission No. 572

**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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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
My family have been planning to develop some of our more fertile brigalow regrowth (about 50 hectares) to fodder production making our enterprise more productive in the short term and more sustainable in the long term. Therefore in my opinion these amendments severely hamper these plans and we would be forced to use less productive land.
2. Re-introducing Reverse Onus-of-Proof
This is a direct attack on our basic human rights and I believe it should be challenged in the highest courts.
3. That no compensation will be payable to HVA, IHVA and Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) applicants during transitional arrangements
This is just another loss we are expected to absorb. Will cost hundreds of thousands in lost production.
4. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
This is a major step backwards for our operation potentially cutting our output by up to 30%. This is very difficult for any business to absorb. I fail to see the sense in food production

decreasing in these times of exploding populations and global food shortages.

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.

Yet another extra cost in an already struggling industry it is impractical and ill thought out.

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

This entire amendment is a sick joke and a classic case of labor vote grabbing by making life harder on already struggling minorities in areas that jobs are hard to come by at the best of times. All for that all-important green vote in the city. Proving once again the Australian farmer is given very little respect at all levels of Government and continues to be the scapegoat.

Signed:

Address:

Date:

29-4-16

Clement 422