

SUBMISSION TO:

Submission No. 588

**Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment
Bill 2016****Organisation or
individual:**

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**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:****Reason for confidentiality:**

I am sending in my submission **to see the present vegetation management act remain in place as is.**

I feel the proposed vegetation management bill will be a disaster for regional Queensland and more so for struggling property owners and people living in our remote towns and shires. This proposed bill does not use the current science which proves tree cover is increasing, and decreasing pasture growth for livestock. This bill should not be passed in any form. The reverse onus of proof belongs in some very large country's in the northern hemisphere not, Queensland or Australia. All Queensland people should pay equally for climate change, not just regional property owners.

We as graziers/farmers must be able to continue clearing for HVA and IHVA so that we have a chance to remain viable by increasing our income, by having multiple incomes from our land and not have to rely only on livestock. Dryland and irrigated cropping and the ability to fatten and turn off younger stock by feeding Silage mixed with a grain ration and crop stubble will help our producers survive. With the ability to raise extra income, our producers will see more dollars per Ha earned and survival for our property owners. Our GRAP area, along with large areas of regional Queensland, are not in the Great Barrier Reef catchment area. This will also see extra food and fibre for Australia and export income and major development in these areas.

We are years behind the South East corner of Queensland as they have cleared their better land years ago, and achieved what we are now trying to achieve.

History has shown that just growing livestock to sell is not the right or best option for most graziers as over the last four years and low stock prices, a lot of producers are hurting financially.

- 1/ Labours stoppage of the Live Export trade in 2011, and no compensation for producers. Compensation should still happen. Stopping the live ex trade caused prices to drop in areas that did not supply live export stock.
- 2/ This caused a serious oversupply of stock for sale and meatworks dropped their prices for these stock. Store cattle and live export prices were forced down by low meatworks prices.
- 3/ Three years of drought caused extra forced sales of stock and sold at reduced rates.
- 4/ Our major export meatworks have started dropping prices again by limiting killing days and numbers again. Our live export prices have dropped about \$280 (.90cents a kilo) and fats about \$100 per head,[0.30 cents per kg] because of this.

Any of the above can and will happen again and see cattle only properties running at a loss again, or being forced to exit the industry, possibly to overseas buyers.

DERM and State Government are soon to release 465,000 ml of new water from the Gilbert River. To insure that enough suitable soils are cleared to use this water, in our GRAP area, **The State Government must give our GRAP area a State Significant Project Status to insure suitable land can be cleared for the use of the above mentioned water.** The FRAP area on the Flinders River needs the above as well.

With a instream dam at Green Hills Station on the upper Gilbert River which CSIRO have done extensive work on and crop trials, and identified about 20000 ha of soil suitable for irrigation in our GRAP area .We could see up to 40,000 hectares of irrigated crops grown year round on the GRAP area properties and Strathmore. A further 40,000 hectares plus could be farmed dryland most years. This would see profitable farmers and increased income. If the above is allowed to happen by our State Government we will see massive growth and expansion in the Etheridge Shire and the Flinders River region. We will see town water from the dam for Georgetown , several mills, cotton gin, feedlot and abattoirs **and many new jobs created**, plus similar services and living conditions that the rest of Queensland now enjoy. **Our graziers/farmers must retain the right to clear HVA and IHVA soils.**

Without the current vegetation laws being retained in full, or a State Significant Project Status being placed on the GRAP area and the Flinders River area our farmers and graziers will not be able to clear HVA and IHVA soils in these areas. We will see a general decline in our regional areas and cattle only property owners could be forced from their land. The survivors and towns people will remain having to exist with near third world living conditions. No town water, No resident Doctor or Dentist, no High school, no passenger plane flights, no shopping centres, no legal firms, limited bank ,branch from Ravenshoe, No new job prospects for our locals ,children and indigenous people, and a limited rate base for Etheridge Shire council.

If the proposed new bill is passed by Queensland Government the people of Queensland will see very little, if any, of the Federal Government 5Billion dollars Northern Australia infrastructure Development money be used in Queensland, and no regional development.

Without being able to clear good HVA and IHVA farming soils in our GRAP and FRAP areas, we will not have enough cleared farm land to get investors into our area to use any of the 5Billion dollars on offer. This 5Billion dollars fund will all go to developing farming areas in the Northern Territory and the North Western Australia, seeing more Queensland people moving interstate looking for farming opportunities and jobs. This will come at the time when Queensland's economy needs major help with mining investment and mine jobs at an all-time low.

Any land cleared for HVA and IHVA under a legal permit must be locked in for the permit use and get Cat x on this. The above area will need several years of discing, spraying, cutter bar and farming to say that you own cleared farmland. We need to hold the self-accessible clearing for fence lines ,Cat x land and thinning of regrowth.

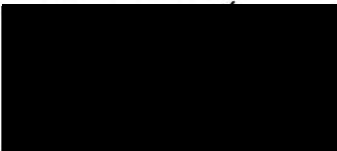
If the Queensland Government new laws are designed to stop any clearing and any chance of regional people improving their income and lifestyle, this must also apply to developers clearing trees to build new homes, shopping centres and other developments in the south east corner, as well as new mines and rail lines.

Photos of Sorghum and Corn - contrary to some peoples opinions, soils in our area are as good as anywhere, and can and will grow impressive tonnages of grains for local use and export income. Why should any Government or Green group try and stop our regional people achieving this???





Yours Sincerely,



Ken Fry