

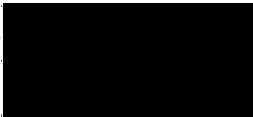



**SUBMISSION TO:****Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation  
Amendment Bill 2016****SUBMISSION COVER SHEET****Closing date for submissions is 25 April 2016.**

Please complete and submit this form with your submission to:

**Email:**  
vminquiry@parliament.qld.gov.au**Post:** **Fax:** 07 3553 6699Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment  
Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

<b>Organisation or individual:</b>	Glenorie Grazing company		
<b>Principal contact:</b>	Peter Crook King		
<b>Position:</b>	owner		
<b>Telephone:</b>		<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>			
<b>Email address:</b>			
<b>Street address:</b>			
<b>Suburb/City:</b>	Morven	<b>State:</b>	Qld <b>Postcode:</b> 4468
<b>Postal address:</b>	As above		
<b>Suburb/City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>Postcode:</b>
<b>Is all or part of your submission confidential?</b>	Yes, all <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, part <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (copy box to indicate answer)		
<b>If part, please identify which sections are confidential:</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
<b>Reason for confidentiality:</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 continual changes in VMA regulations makes good management of our property impossible, with regard to Mulga management & the ongoing tree thickening situation that we face in the Eastern Mulga Lands. It has already substantially reduced the value of our property, eroded our equity, caused our grazing business to be deemed 'unviable' & had a very negative effect on our quality of life.***

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

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.

***This also does effects our situation where HVA & IHVA does not apply. A small scale water storage dam & an area of irrigated forage cropping/ plantation would be an excellent way to assist our property through drought. The same would apply to some dryland forage cropping.***

### **2. Re-introducing Reverse Onus-of-Proof**

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.

***The 'facts' about vegetation management with regard to Thinning & Fodder Harvesting are always very difficult to understand & we simply cannot afford to buy the expensive equipment required to follow the maps. Also, maps are quite often very wrong.***

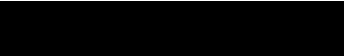

**4. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land**

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.

***The VMA & how it applied to mulga country was very flawed to begin with as the science was disregarded & 'common sense' did not prevail. The VMA protects woody weed infestation & promotes land degradation.***

**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**

***The enormous potential for development in southwest Q to be further restricted by the VMA will have a very negative effect on our already stressed communities.***

Signed:	
Address:	 Morven 4468 /
Date:	29/04/16