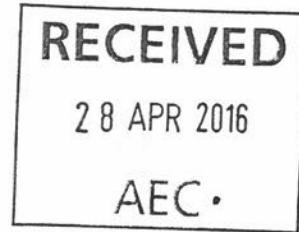


PD & SE Joliffe

AMBY QLD 4462

27 April 2016



Research Director
Agricultural and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

RE: Considerations for the Vegetation Management Act 2016

I am a 60 year old grazier from southern inland Queensland & I have lived on the land all of my life. My wife & I are in business together & run a beef breeding property. We sell most of the stock to feedlots or crop fatteners. We also sell some fat cattle to the market. When we need extra help we employ our sons or daughter & if they are too busy with their work we hire someone else to help us.

I am writing to explain a few vital points about our grazing industry which I would like deliberated when making laws that affect our viability in this industry, especially with the proposed Vegetation Management Act. In 1991 we paid to freehold our property, Walhallow. By the year 2000, half of the area which was a freehold tenure was shaded in, making it illegal to improve what was potentially good grazing country. There was no compensation offered & we could not develop the property to its full potential. In our case, as with many other landholders in similar situations, we plead that no more land be unjustly taken.

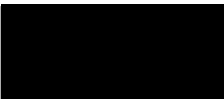
With our grazing business, the native flora & fauna have benefited substantially by our being here. The property we own had no permanent water on it until my ancestors put in dams & bores which allowed all native wildlife to live here permanently. We have created ideal conditions for our livestock as well as the various native species to thrive year in & year out. There are millions of hectares in Queensland where by putting in waters has allowed wildlife & humans to survive & produce in a very dry continent. We have the knowledge & skills to be sustainable & successfully produce a good quality product whilst co-existing with the native wildlife.

I have lived on our property for 40 years now grazing cattle. We have invested a lifetime of "blood, sweat & tears", as well as a lot of borrowed money to keep this land productive as many species of trees & shrubs are encroaching on the pastures, many of which were not here when our ancestors settled this land. The thicker the trees grow the more moisture

they take out of the soil, thereby leaving no moisture for the grasses to grow. With their massive root system, when it rains they deprive most of the moisture from the soil leaving the grasses struggling to survive.

In most years, with our business on the land, by the time we pay the bank interest owing, the repayments, insurance, rates, rent, infrastructure improvements, pasture maintenance, vehicle expenses, fuels, stock supplement feed, electricity, telephone, accountant & feed & clothe ourselves we have spent every dollar we earn off the property, which greatly contributes to our local community & Queensland's economy, creating employment for contractors, fencers, truckies, agents, just to name a few. Right through the chain, the flow-on effect is huge. As well, we're growing food for our ever growing population. We have to be able to keep our pastures cleared to grow good quality feed for cattle which also is beneficial to see us through droughts. The productivity of inland Queensland will definitely deteriorate by disallowing the removal of trees. I ask you to please consider the impacts of the Vegetation Management Act on our economy & our future food security.

With respect,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Peter Joliffe.

Peter Joliffe