

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Bryan Cifuentes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 5:58 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Subject: Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017- Submission

Categories: submission

Members of the Committee.

My Background:

I wish to advise the Committee that I have a substantial background in Fire Management in the Landscape involving 46 years working for Government in the departments of Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Rural Fires Board and the Rural Fire Service under Queensland Fire and Emergency Service. I no longer work for Government.

Predominately my experience evolved around the prescriptive use of fire for Biodiversity, Industry and Cultural practices, as well as the Suppression and Response to Wildfire both in Queensland and across Australia.

I fully support mitigation of risk and promoted the use of fire as both a tool to reduce fuel load in winter and prescriptive practice in shaping biodiversity, weed control and primary production. I was instrumental with the introduction of aerial burning practices in broad acre areas of Queensland (Cape York) where heavy monsoonal rains will cause massive erosion on man made constructed fire breaks leaving the property owner unable to economically maintain these breaks and the burning of breaks by aircraft was cost efficient and effective. My experience in dealing with Property owners they are conservationists not wanting to threaten their livelihood, the majority implement sustainable risk mitigation practices.

Location of burn areas was rotated so as not to target the same areas for the reason of frequent low intensity burning in the same locations produces woody weeds thus changing the ecosystem. This is a warning to the recent introduced practice of carbon credit burning that has now taken off in Indigenous lands, they risk drastically changing the habitat for a large number of flora and fauna ecosystems. Tree thickening and mono culture species have already altered the landscape for example the Golden Shoulder Parrot that feeds on grass seed is now more vulnerable to predators because of this thickening. (One example)

Comment:

The Queensland Fire Service Act stipulates that any fire (regardless of who lit it) on your property is the responsibility of the owner and/or occupier of said land.

- Why is Government wanting to take responsibility for more when they cannot manage what they have already?
- Taxpayers are paying for a bloated public service/sector as it is now.
- Why does government continually use the red tape approach and not the proactive incentive approach?

The waterways managed by government organisations like Sun Water have in the past been high fire risks due to being fenced off and overgrown resulting in threat to neighbours livelihoods.

This added layer will accentuate the problem.

There is more tree coverage across the landscape of Queensland now than ever, for example I started with the Forestry department and trained as a forest surveyor I saw old survey plans and one in particular dated 1886 was of a lease over Melissa Creek just north of Cape Tribulation in the Daintree World Heritage written across the plan was the words "Open Grassy Plains Blacks Prolific."

National Parks scientists in Cairns will tell you of the loss of Blue Gum Forests because of thickening occurring.

The new regulations are not warranted.

Bryan Cifuentes



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