

Submission
No. 5.



Dr K Munro
Research Director
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By Email: sdiic@parliament.qld.gov.au

1 April 2013

RE: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT BILL 2013

Dear Dr Munro

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's current inquiry into the *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013* ('the Bill').

Together, we operate two cattle properties (freehold and preferential pastoral holding) south of Rolleston in the Central Highlands, managing approximately 3,500 head of cattle. We have been in continuous operation since 1980, and have brought up our three children here.

Over the past decade, working to the requirements of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* has been time consuming, resource intensive, and has limited the ability of our business to grow by unnecessarily restricting normal vegetation management on-farm. At times, dealing with the relevant departments has been extremely frustrating and complex.

When the Piggott family first moved into the Rolleston district, they did so under the *Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act 1962*. The 'Brigalow Development Scheme' included improved transport infrastructure, concessional loans, and viable holdings which were balloted for.

As part of the scheme, our family was required to proactively manage vegetation, including minimum coverage and proper species management.

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After the scheme, it was estimated cattle numbers in the Fitzroy Region tripled when compared to herds in unmanaged brigalow scrubs.

When considered with this historic perspective, the proposed changes in the Bill represent a positive step forward for long-term sustainable management of land, and will hopefully enable agriculture to prosper and contribute to the economy.

As producers, we *strongly support the changes proposed in the Bill*: vegetation management legislation should be about land management and the ability of primary producers to produce food in a sustainable way without being hindered by red tape.

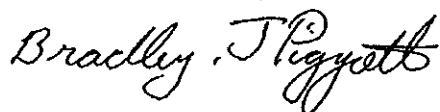
In further assisting the Queensland Government's vision to support agriculture as one of the four pillars of the economy and allow the maintenance and sustainable management of our native vegetation resources across the State we would suggest that you consider:

- Reducing the overregulation of activities routine and essential to the management of our properties (for example clearing for fence lines, firebreaks, roads, other infrastructure and regrowth management),
- Simplifying the application process for permits to make them simple, fair and transparent, and;
- Reducing over-administration of vegetation management by inexperienced departmental staff.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee and for considering our feedback.

Should you wish to discuss any part of this submission further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Bradley Piggott
Partner



Kerryn Piggott
Partner

cc Mr David Gibson MP, Chairman, State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee
cc The Hon Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

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