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State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Date  /  /    
Month Day Year

## Re: Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Queensland Parliament State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee's public consultation into the *Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill 2013* (hereafter 'the Bill').

As a primary producer the ability to manage vegetation on my property, without the burden of unnecessary red-tape, is vital to my future productivity and sustainability.

Working within the complex regulatory and administrative limitations of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* for the last decade has limited development on my property, been time consuming and resource intensive, and has had unintended, negative environmental and social impacts.

The proposed changes in the Bill present a positive step forward for long-term sustainable land management that will enable our agricultural industry to prosper and to contribute to our economy.

This is about land management and my ability to produce food in a sustainable way without being hindered by red tape.

I, as a Queensland primary producer,

- strongly support the changes you have proposed with this Bill.
- support the changes you have proposed, however, have suggested some further recommendations with the Bill.

I have detailed a number recommendations below and how they will reduce red-tape and regulatory burden, assist in 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.

Following is information about my enterprise which further supports my submission for changes to the vegetation management legislative framework in Queensland.

My production type is

The land tenure on my property is

I have Remnant Vegetation found on my property

I have High Value Regrowth Vegetation found on my property

My main issue/s with the current vegetation management framework is:

- Overly complex process to obtain a development application/permit for vegetation management
- The length of time taken to obtain a development approval/permit for vegetation management
- The length of time to utilise a permit/development approval is too short (currently 5 years) and doesn't allow for long-term property planning
- Incorrect mapping
- Overregulation of activities that are routine and essential to the management of my property (for example clearing for fence lines, firebreaks, roads, or infrastructure)
- Over-administration or administration of vegetation management by inexperienced departmental staff
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If this Bill is passed it will mean the following for my property in terms of improved productive, environmental and/or social aspects:

Production of our enterprises would be increased if we were allowed some Clearing and Thinning of Regrowth where possible to suit areas of land where a wheel tractor can operate.

If I could propose further changes to the legislation these changes would include:

2 Pages are attached herein with TOPICS OF CONCERN to us.

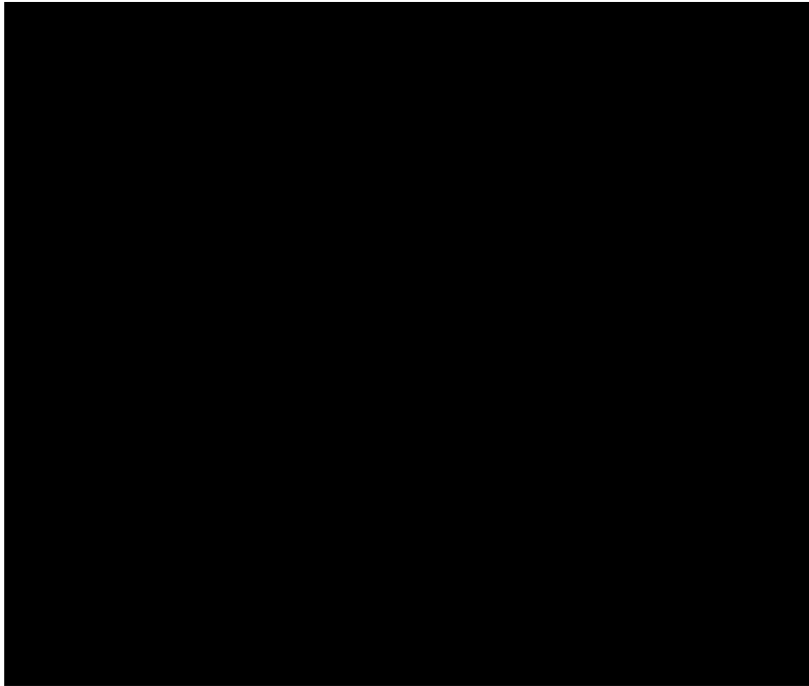
### Contact Details

Full Name    
First Name Last Name

Phone Number

Address

E-mail



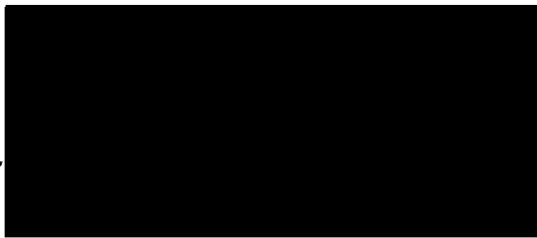
I thank you once again for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry and for considering my feedback.

Should you wish to discuss the information I have provided further, I can be contacted via:

- ....  the contact details above.
- alternative contact details listed below.

E-mail

Phone Number



Kind Regards.

Name and Signature

*PETER JOHN VERRI.*  
*Peter John Verri*

## TOPICS OF CONCERN

### Area Management Plans

Queensland is a very large & diverse vegetated & climate variance state, and lawmakers must avoid the easy road of one size fits all which leads to inequities.

It would seem the AMP's on a district basis will be taking into account Q'ld's diversity. If I have got that wrong then **that's what they should be for**. Most importantly the groups/persons creating the AMP's for the Chief Executive should be representative of all interested stakeholders for a balanced & practical result and also be required to allow general public input AND a fair method of appointing one or more stakeholders from the public in the district to the group preparing the AMP. I.e the district AMP group should not be all bureaucrats. The public appointees should be able to claim out of pocket expenses. These AMP groups would have a very busy first couple of years and then a steady reviewing/amending task.

### Relevant Clearing Applications

The understanding of the new clearing proposal for High Value Agricultural clearing in Section 22A.

Is it for irrigated use only for cattle pastures. What has happened to cattle pastures where in the wet tropics there is sufficient rain fall to allow for sustainable land use for the increase in production on these blocks. Flexibility is needed for the different climate zones/districts.

### Regulated Vegetation Management (Under Section 20A)

A key change to the Mapping Frame Work is the "Locking in" of all non-assessable vegetation as category X. Does this include blocks that don't have a PMAV and are currently shaded in white. Will they be Category X.....

What will happen to the areas in green that are mapped incorrectly as is in the case on our property. This incorrect mapping should be adjusted prior to the "Locking in"

### Self Assessable Clearing Codes

I like this code as it will make clearing more assessable to land holders but I feel it lacks details on the explanation I.e. thinning in wet tropic areas will be different in conditions to other areas of state forest in this State and I hope that the committee allows for flexibility to be applied to different areas.


### Definltions and Terminology

To use the terms "high value" and "endangered" regrowth of once cleared areas of the wet tropics land is misleading to distort the perception and any following assessments. Any landholder will tell you that this first regrowth is the rubbish vegetation and a far cry from high value or endangered. Regardless of what some science will say it would be more in the vicinity of 300 years before species of the virgin rainforest type would dominate again over cleared areas.

Regrowth is regrowth, and to use the 70% height and coverage etc existing VGA definition to say it is now to be classified remnant, doesn't make it remnant species; it is still regrowth. 300 years is a long way from today's productive needs. Many landholders would be thankful to have locked up regrowth returned to them for productive use to be cleared for pasture again OR selling as offsets or future carbon credits; it would be something back for the landholder that has had to pay in land devaluation or less production that has not cost the rest of the community anything to have vegetation management. The original clearing lines from early settlement days are shown on the current veg maps.

Hopefully my submission becomes helpful for everyone affected by the Vegetation Management Act and I am available for any further discussion.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Verri', written in a cursive style.

Peter Verri