

**ATTENTION:**

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

Date 

04	/	03	/	2013
Month		Day		Year

**Re: Vegetation Management  
Framework Amendment Bill 2013**

Mr. Ralph Mantel  
Wilandspey

I have outlined some important issues relating to the ongoing problems I have on this property and hope that some headway can be obtained by amendments to the Vegetation Management Bill

Thanking you  
Kind Regards  
Ralph Mantel

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## 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 Beef Cattle

The land tenure on my property is Preferential Pastoral Holding

I have Remnant Vegetation found on my property YES

I have High Value Regrowth Vegetation found on my property YES

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
- [ ]

If this Bill is passed it will mean the following for my property in terms of improved productive, environmental and/or social aspects:

The passing of this Bill will allow this property to be maintained in a much more efficient manner, such as fence line maintenance, fire breaks, roads and most importantly, reclearing of land which has been developed for the purpose of beef production.

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

The most beneficial changes to the legislation would be as follows. This property has only a small percentage of land development, namely 10% of its total area of 19300 ha and being such a small area has had a huge environmental impact on the native grasslands (continued)

**Contact Details**

If legislation allowed for more areas to be cleared for the production of grass the cattle would spread more evenly throughout the whole property which would allow the rejuvenation of the native pastures which continue to be damaged consistently. There are six land types on this property namely:- Clayey alluvials - Loamy alluvials - Brigalow/Gidya scrubs - Frontal dunes - Box country - Blue gum river red gum. If some of these land types became eligible for clearing even part of some or part of each the benefits in a long term perspective would be immense. Some of the benefits would be as follows:-  
Reducing soil erosion caused by overstocking on the native grasslands - Prevention of woody weeds caused by cattle not being able to graze over the whole property because of lack of grass in all the thickly timbered areas which one land type alone covers. 10,329 hectares where there is no grass to be observed.

Water quality would be greatly improved because large numbers of cattle which congregate on small areas of land would then be spread more evenly so as to prevent their movement over these small tracts of land which over time is very detrimental to the preservation of the top soil. The consistent movement of cattle confined to these areas cause the soil to be disturbed at all times and when the rain falls the water is very muddy and dirty and washes soil nutrients and soil away.

allowing more grasslands to be developed would greatly benefit the environmental and production of beef issues which have been plaguing this property for generations.

Another important change to the legislation which would benefit the viability of this property would include the allowance of

the clearing of rich agricultural land on one part of the property for future farming by way of irrigation. There would be a substantial supply of water to irrigate by the construction of a large dam as long as legislation allowed the clearing of a certain area in this rich area of land most suitable for the farming of any type of crop or food.