

Vegetation Management and other Legislation Amendment Bill

Submission from

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Regarding changes to land reclassification and Category C vegetation changes.

The proposed vegetation management laws will have a direct and devastating impact on my family. Just over a year ago we purchased a wonderful property near Gladstone, QLD. We chose this land because we had the freedom to grow our dreams.

Our property is currently almost entirely Category X (self managed vegetation). Under the proposed changes we will lose use of approximately 50 acres (out of 96). The land affected by reclassification is some of the flattest ground on our undulating property.

We had a 5-10yr plan for this land, with sustainable practices in mind. We were planning on leaving the old trees, the trees and vegetation that support our creek edges and the vegetation that supports our hills.

Now our dream may never eventuate. The remaining land is mostly under electrical easement, so as such cannot support infrastructure. Most of the still clearable land is on hills with minimal flat land.

I also wanted to bring to light some of the flaws in the satellite mapping system. Several areas of land in the proposed Category C are already cleared, with no 15yr old growth. With the current system we would have to pay over \$400 for a PMAV just to see if it could be reclassified back. We aren't rich and \$400 could be better put to use.

It is my belief that the QLD government should offer compensation to affected landowners for the loss of useable land and therefore lower marketable value. If we wanted to sell and move we would not be able to get what we paid. We also have limited future options of making income from our land.

We are part of a new generation of farmers, and the proposed amendments show a lack of care towards not only my generation, but also those that have spent their lives working this land to put food on our tables.

Thank you for your attention.