

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework

By removing this right and then having it reinstated again at a later date causes 'opportunity clearing' by landholders for future requirements in excess of current demand. If the clause was always there the clearing rate would be far less than the boom and bust cycle we have been in for a considerable time now.

We have some of the best farming soils available to anyone however it has never been cleared of vegetation; the total area of this good soil is approximately 1.5% of our total land area. Sometime into the future it will be necessary to value add to the raw product that we produce by becoming more intensive. This 1.5% of our property would allow us to do this if we were allowed to clear and farm it, thus producing a better quality higher value product to feed the growing world population.

2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

By removing the self assessable codes in our opinion it will increase the work load of Departmental staff and landholders for no net benefit to the environment.

3. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration

We are obliged under our lease agreement to control weeds on our property. Sometimes the only option to manage woody weeds eg. rubber vine, chinee apple etc is mechanical removal of plants. If working in thick infestations that have been established for a long period of time there are only a very small number native trees still surviving because the others have been killed by the infestation. The removal of the rubber vine appears to be excessive clearing, however, in a few short years the tree numbers recover to again produce a balance of trees and pasture.

As custodians of the land we need to be able to continue this routine management practice without onerous regulations being enforced on us. Overregulation will only discourage landholders from carrying out any form of rehabilitation of areas infested by woody weeds. This rehabilitation is vital, especially in riparian zones, for the reduction of soil erosion, improvement in water quality and the removal of feral animal habitat.

Signed:



Address:



Date:

17th March 2018