

SUBMISSION

I provide my submission on rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 ("the Bill").

This constant change in legislation severely impacts on the ability of farm managers to plan and implement effective long-term property and business management decisions. Ecological processes work in much longer timeframes and can be severely compromised when mismatching regulations are enforced. Farmers have long called for certainty with the vegetation management regulatory framework. I am totally opposed to continued uncertainty and attacks on the viability of myself, the long-term sustainability of my business as well as attacks on fellow farmers.

The impacts of the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act include;

- The purpose for High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture will be removed.
- Extends Category B areas (remnant vegetation) and Category C (regrowth vegetation) to freehold land, and indigenous freehold land. Additional 862 000ha High Value Regrowth and water course buffers to all reef catchment, Burnett Mary, Fitzroy, Eastern Cape York.
- Thinning will require Development Application to be lodged for approval.
- The purpose for High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture will be removed.

Describe the impacts the changes will make to stall agriculture, discourage investment, and increase costs and time to manage vegetation.

Introducing the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act would be a backward step for farmers and Queenslanders as a whole. Queensland already has high youth unemployment, particularly in rural areas and this will only increase if we ban future development.

A farmers main goal is to make a living of the land in a sustainable way so that they can pass it on to the next generation. Farmers need to be able to strategically develop certain if they are to remain viable into the future. Also, if a grazer in mulga country cannot use the mulga as fodder in times of draught then this country would become worthless overnight. It would also almost certainly lead to mental health issues in graziers concerned.

Last year protesters illegally entered a North Queensland property and burnt a bulldozer to protest against tree clearing. In my opinion, these people are terrorists and should be treated as such.

Signed:

PETER MURPHY

Address:

Date:

22-03-2018