

## 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
<p>This will stifle the northern part of Australia, any land developed for HVA and IHVA is already under the strictest of guidelines.</p> <p>With the push to develop Northern Australia, this legislation will go against building a productive north. Our business is well situated to becoming a hub for exports to Asia &amp; China.</p> <p>However, with such uncertainty within our leaders it negatively impacts our decisions for our future making succession planning a nightmare.</p> <p>On one hand government encourages population growth but on the other hand stifles the supply of protein &amp; food to feed them. If you don't want primary productivity start at the other end of your problem.</p>
2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes
<p>Self -assessable codes are followed very strictly by landholders, it is in our best interest to do so and remain sustainable.</p> <p>It doesn't serve us well not to do so.</p> <p>If these Self- assessable codes are taken away it would limit our ability to manage all facets of our business in conjunction with each other.</p>
3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
<p>We have a small amount of the re-inclusion High Value Regrowth; these areas are now what I'd consider as tree thickened areas chocking out native grasses and wildlife. That would do well to be returned to their original open type country, similar the surrounding area.</p>
4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.
<p>This is a joke, there is so much indigenous land up Cape York remaining dormant because of the political suppression imposed on the people itself.</p>
5. That no compensation will be payable to landholder's subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements

How do the government suppose these landholders will remain viable with more restrictions? Maybe they should be compensated on an annual basis for lost production.

6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.

It is getting to a point where farmers need a university degree in Law to manage their land, it is obvious farmers are the salt of the earth people not much on technology, education and administration. The penalties for landholders making honest mistakes are pushing some genuine Aussie people to the edge.

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

Most Landholders in our area just want to clear enough land to grow a paddock of hay. In the scheme of things, it would be about 1/100,000<sup>th</sup> % of our area of land. Take that into consideration when you clear house blocks for city growth. Being custodians of the land, we have to consider Weed management as well.

We try and look long term, towards the next few generations, we ourselves are 3<sup>rd</sup> generation cattle producers and being in the midst of such an unstable political era our future is quite daunting.

It has a big impact on our relations with Banks and other Industry investors. Northern Australia could flourish given the right support and backing by government but we only see this as another ill-informed decision from higher up.

Government need to have confidence in the landholders to remain sustainable and to do this we are only going to do what is right for the environment and business.

That's why the self-assessable system is the most useful and effective & cost-efficient tool.

These changes have a ripple effect, there will be less income so naturally there will be less people employed and money generated in the area.

Signed:	<i>M MacLean</i>
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