

SUBMISSION

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

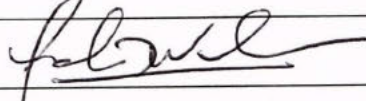
1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework
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<p>With drought being a major restrictive factor in Queensland since 2001, the agriculture sector has been told that it should take drought preventative measures to reduce the effect of loss before falling into a drought. This change will take away the ability of landholders to clear and develop farms to maximise available feed reserves and productivity. With the price of land increasing every year it is essential for small businesses like mine to improve our holdings to increase productivity to remain sustainable. High value ag is not something that has always been it is something that has been improved over generations to make land as healthy as possible to be as productive as possible. We graze cattle that eat the grass that used to compete with trees. Grass would rapidly grow when not consumed by stock and choke out the emerging tree species. Those trees that did manage to grow would be destroyed by the massive bushfires due to the huge body of grass that would result from a lack of grazing pressure. An example of this are the massive fires in the southern part of Australia. If a landholder choses to graze livestock on a parcel of land he should be made to manage the thickening regrowth that results from that grazing.</p>
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2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

<p>Self Assessable codes are an important efficient system that enable landholders to quickly move and adjust to ever changing climatical conditions. It is quick and costless and enables the landholder to get on with managing drought and feeding stock. By setting area limits per lot(mulga bioregions) does not take into account scale of enterprise. For example consumption of a breeder animal is between .25 and .33 hectares of mulga a month. A pastoralist in the mulga region with 100 cows on one lot could feed 200 hectares of mulga(with 300 hectares retained=500 hectares), would have the certainty of about 6 months drought tolerance before the uncertainty of re approval for continuation of feeding his stock. There aren't many droughts that only last 6 months that's more like a normal year. The pastoralists with 1000 cows wont even get one month feeding out of their approved permit and absolutely no certainty of continual approval for the remainder of the drought. We fed our cows mulga from 18/12/2012 – 6/5/2014. We received nearly 9 inches of rain in that period in an area that has an average of 16 inches every 12 months. If we had been told that we could no longer push trees for our stock we would have been forced to sell what was healthy enough to truck at a loss big enough to break our business and would have had to watch the rest die or euthanize them. All businesses need security and these laws will only break the agriculture sector.</p>

3.	That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements
	It will only be a matter of time before a landholder wins in court compensation for inept government handling of introduced regulations. As soon as this happens it will open the door for a wave of legal action resulting in billions of dollars of cost to the economy. If you buy something you have the right to make the decisions concerning it, if you want to change or fix something, buy it.
6.	Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.
	There are enough landholders already backed into a corner through prolonged periods of drought, tough financial times and uncertainty of the future. Increasing penalties and compliance measures will only create a higher level of aggression and violent incidents. We have seen example of this with the incident at Mungindi.
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
	As I stated before grazing leads to an increase in tree species and regrowth. It should be a requirement of landholders to maintain a balance on their land. It should be a requirement to increase productivity for food production as well as a good economy. Yet we are facing regulation that immediately affects our business, our productivity and our sustainability. Our land prices will fall, with land locked up that wasn't when we paid for it. Our equity will fall driving many to bankruptcy and others to not have the reserves to call on when the next drought comes. These new regulations are theft and will only cause major damage to the agriculture sector.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	18 MARCH 2018