

## 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

**The changing dynamics of Northern Grazing areas in relation to climatic factors over the last ten years has certainly brought a sharp focus on sustainability across the agriculture sector of Queensland.**

**It is imperative the land holders especially in the grazing industry be given the opportunity to enhance sustainability through development of high value agriculture development, to promote growth rates and weight gain across the product that is being produced.**

**I recognise that the government, need to put some boundaries on how this can be achieved but a blanket approach to this issue is ill conceived and naive when the variances within this subject deserve far more consultation to establish a better understanding across all levels of production and its impending impacts.**

**You cannot do today's work with yesterday's tools and still expect to be in business tomorrow.**

**There has to be far more tolerance from the Queensland Government in relation to this matter. Negative costs of production verses positive returns on product has been the pivotal point in driving your people away from the Northern Beef Industry due to drought conditions, poor commodity prices severely affecting succession plans, and retaining skill set levels and security around transfer to the next generation. Allowing some form of development on HVA and Irrigated (HVA) is crucial to sustaining family agriculture enterprises across the Queensland landscapes**

### 2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

**Self-accessible codes based on the regulatory policies that are currently in place formulated on partnerships from scientifically based organisations such as Queensland Herbarium and conservation values across many levels are working well to deliver security and sustainability to the agricultural sector.**

**Soil health, animal welfare, and economic sustainability are key ingredients to ensure that we as food producers can deliver product to satisfy demand, and erasing this component of the act will severely impact on these three key points. Wider ramification on the socio-economic dynamics of rural and regional communities will be expedited by retrograde steps to nullify these types of developments, and imposing change, in most cases upon the only industry that supports these types of communities will severely impact a much broader base of population in remote and regional areas.**

<p>3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land</p>
<p><b>Self-accessible codes based on the regulatory policies that are currently in place formulated on partnerships from scientifically based organisations such as Queensland Herbarium and conservation values across many levels are working well to deliver security and sustainability to the agricultural sector.</b></p> <p><b>Soil health, animal welfare, and economic sustainability are key ingredients to ensure that we as food producers can deliver product to satisfy demand, and erasing this component of the act will severely impact on these three key points. Wider ramification on the socio-economic dynamics of rural and regional communities will be expedited by retrograde steps to nullify these types of developments, and imposing change, in most cases upon the only industry that supports these types of communities will severely impact a much broader base of population in remote and regional areas.</b></p> <p>-</p>
<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>
<p>- <b>Most producers view the conflict between working within a regulatory framework and sustainable development as hypocrisy at its worst. There is such an undermining of investor confidence when the pendulum is swinging so widely on legislative change and that impact is so widely disregarded by the Government.</b></p>
<p>5. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.</p>
<p><b>Increased compliance measures will erode the little that is left of the relationship this industry has with the Government on this matter. Lack of respect for agriculture by this government in the past when agriculture could not be afforded a stand-alone portfolio highlights the blatant disregard for credible and factual opposition to this matter. This leaves a cloud hanging over how much importance is given to an industry that contributes so highly to the Queensland economy.</b></p>
<p>6. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration</p>

At no stage in this whole sorry saga has there been mention of tree thickening, especially across the Northern West and Gulf region of Queensland. The productivity levels from these grazing lands have been severely impacted by this phenomenon, whilst levels of ability to earn income has been diminished. Property valuations have not been amended in anyway with regard to this issue. On the whole we are not looking at complex vertical integrated projects of large scale production, just a way to secure a profitable path forward for our industry through sustainable agriculture and next generation succession. Value adding is the key to achieving this and Government has to get the balance right to allow this to happen. At the moment it would appear that pressure from minority sectors are clouding the process to grant fair and equitable outcomes for all land and livestock managers across Queensland.

Signed:	B. G. Hughes. L.M. Hyl
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