

SUBMISSION

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

Chair and Committee members

Simon and I are from families who have been on the land for generations, we are afraid to say it's not going to continue if we are not recognized for the great work we do with our land management practices, to produce food. We consider we are environmentalists in our own right. From our experience we need biodiversity within the catchment areas of the Great Barrier Reef. Having a blanket approach to allow a mono culture of trees along these water courses will not reduce erosion and sediment entering the Great Barrier Reef. Grass cover is as important as trees.

We invest in the land with weed control, vegetation regrowth management, land degradation and of course grazing management to optimize our business. In doing this we pour a lot of our money back into our environmental surrounds - our properties. We pride ourselves on being good land managers! If we were not to do this, our land would not be profitable, hence we would not be in business. We feel very offended with the proposed bill, as this is not a reasonable or workable bill that will enable us to continue to run our business. We would be unable to control regrowth. The removal of High Value Agriculture and IHVA affects so many farmers who require protein and energy for their livestock during prolonged dry times. This proposed bill in our opinion after having experienced 6 years of drought, requiring mulga for the welfare of our cattle on agistment would limit their survival. Mulga is an essential diet in some areas and particularly valuable when the drought hits. For the farmers who live in these areas it's all they have and they manage it well. We feel with the proposed bill Government will be restricting future generations feeding a growing population, productivity will be limited and it will be affecting the livelihood of farming families.

We as farming families need certainty for the future. We have timbered country of which we manage sustainably. As producers we need to be able to plan with certainty and we are finding this very difficult. We have all our PMAV'S in place but still at every turn find Government changing our maps applying massive amounts of red tape of which is a very expensive exercise for us.

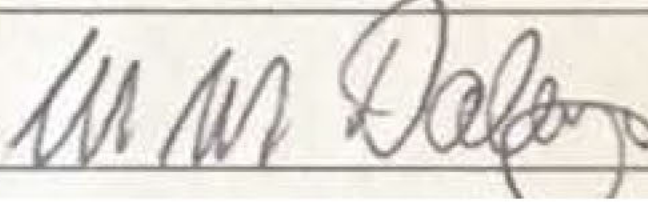
We would also like to mention how we are surrounded by the huge gas companies and also having to deal with gas acquisition. We seem to be hammered with the requirements of accountability with vegetation management but Government have not considered the millions of litres of water disappearing from our precious underground water table. It's very disturbing to see the damage they are doing. There seems to be two rules. One for gas and one for farmers.

Retaining Self –Assessable Coding is an important tool for farmers. As land owners we are the ones managing our land, pouring a lot of money into maintaining weeds, regrowth and land degradation, we feel we are the best to assess the season and land types. This allows us to carry out routine vegetation management practises. Simon and I have witnessed how important it is to maintain a balance between the regrowth of trees and grass on our country so as to avoid erosion. Our property is surrounded by National Park. Guess where the wildlife resides, on us

where they have an abundance of grass. The National Park is over run with trees, too thick to let the grass grow underneath.

The other issue we have, is that the mapping is often incorrect. This is the second property that we have had to contest. For example our first property was colour coded with remnant vegetation over our garden and house amongst other areas that had been cleared for years. We spent \$3300 dollars to address the department's mistakes. As producers the onus is on us for the department's mistakes on a simple PMAV. Who's to say they won't make a mistake on other imagery and wrongly accuse people of being guilty and then they have to prove their innocence. Rather than increasing compliance measures and penalties Government need to stop treating us like criminals and start working together not against us, as it feels now. It's a very sad state at the moment!

We have two boys who have moved to the city to further their careers. When we asked if they were interested in continuing our legacy their reply was "Why would we want to come home when we see all the heart ache and red tape you are being confronted with - too hard". We need support from Government to run our Agricultural businesses so we can continue to provide sustainable food production and a future of certainty for the next generation.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	19.3.18.