

## 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.

**By not being able to continue harvesting mulga the way we have in the past to sustain core breeding herd and flock in rainfall deficient times will have a huge impact on the bottom line of grazing properties bank balances which will have a flow on effect to local small communities and towns quicker than you think. We need to be able to manage this valuable regenerating fodder source without fickle implementation of government regulations that they introduce to buy a vote in some city seat. A regenerating fodder reserve that we are not allowed to use.**

**Budgets and financial plans cannot be made around instability of government regulations. If this legislation is brought in it could wipe a substantial amount off property values over a large area which we consider a backward step. The main reason you purchase a mulga block is so you don't have to go on agistment every time it gets dry which has been totally sustainable for the past 200 years. (which would be a huge impact on our income).**

**Shires have just increased rates on the back of substantial unimproved capital valuations - will we be compensated for this?**

**No accomplished property owner would mismanage mulga to be detrimental to their future sustainability.**

Signed:	Mick Hughes Hayley Hughes
Address:	
Date:	19/03/2018