

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission - QLD Vegetation Management Laws
Date: Monday, 19 March 2018 2:05:00 PM

Dear Committee Secretary,

(State Development, Natural Resources & Agriculture Industry Development)

I am making this submission to highlight the harm that has been caused to our family by the Queensland Vegetation Management Laws.

The 120 Hectare property has been in the family for multiple decades and is located approximately eight kilometres west of the Mackay CBD. Around 55 hectares is under cultivation (cane farm) and the remainder is hilly and unusable.

The property is also in close proximity to the norther side of the of the Mackay Ring Road construction site. Since 2016 we have been approached by different construction companies and asked if we would consider selling fill from our property for the ring road project. Our family was interested in any proposal that could potentially raise revenue form the land because due to the size and nature of the cane growing area the property has become unviable. The property is also unsuitable for integration with neighbouring farms because the harvesting conditions are unsuitable for large scale operation (Once the small scale harvester operators disappear the farm will need to cease production)

We began investigating the potential to sell land fill from the property only to learn that is has 'Red' vegetation zoning and could not be touched. We were consequently directed to engage the services of an environmental scientist to verify the legitimacy of the remanent vegetation status. At significant expense we did this and the researcher via thorough investigation of the history of the property and direct ground proofing of the vegetation was able to confirm that the vegetation on our property consists mainly of weeds and non-natives and most certainly should never have been categorised Red. (I would consider disclosing the contents of the report should it be of use to this submission) It turns out the Red zoning was recklessly based on Arial photos and any areas that looked a bit green were zoned Red and this consequently ruined the potential for our family to earn much needed revenue from our land.

We have since submitted an PMAV application to the department of natural resources and mines but the ship has sailed and the opportunity to derive income from the property has been missed. As mentioned the farm has no future however if extra funds from the sale of land fill were available our family would most certainly have directed a portion of the funds towards levelling and shaping the cane land to allow larger machinery to operate and harvest the crop. Doing this would most certainly extend the viability of the property. The alternative for this property is for it to go out of production and morph into a community hazard i.e. increased fire hazard and a haven for wild dogs and feral pigs.

I could go on, however I believe the brief summary above should be adequate to give you some understating of how unfair and costly the legislation has been to our family and how disappointed we are.

I respectfully ask that you consider our circumstances when making any changes to the legislation. In particular when any legislative changes impacts on small family operations like ours.

Regards,

Phillip Axiak