

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.

The World is advancing with better farming practices, more efficiency, more production from resources and more appropriate environmental outcomes. However in Queensland the current Greens influenced Labor Government has adopted the SHUT IT DOWN, CANT DO IT AND DON'T CARE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GRAZIERS AND FARMERS OF QUEENSLAND. THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO AFFILIATION OR INTERESTS AS THEY THINK THAT THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THEM. THE PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE AFLICTING THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS UPON ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY ALL THE TREES WILDLIFE ETC FOR QUEENSLAND WHILE IN THE CITIES AND URBAN AREAS THEY ARE BUILDING HOUSES ON SOME OF OUR BEST FARMING LAND IN QUEENSLAND AND CLEARING COASTAL WOODLANDS AT A VERY FAST RATE TO ALSO BUILD HOUSES ON. If we were to attack them the same way that we are attacked this would not be happening. They would be made to live on land that is not so productive so we are able to feed ourselves into the future.

Our self-assessable codes enable us to manage our vegetation without time consuming and expensive paper trails as well as following government changing protocols. Something commonly referred to as efficiency.


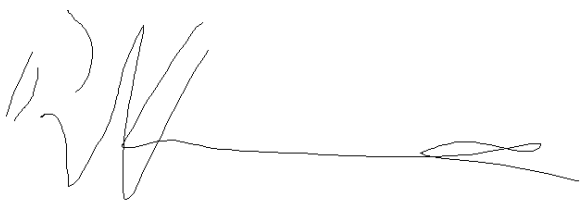
We personally have left areas of vegetation that we could have cleared, to protect animals from predators, provide shade to livestock and because we think that it is important to retain the balance of tree species and not just the endangered species. Some in the industry have suggested that this is silly as the Government will take more productive area away from you. In hindsight this would appear to be correct.

We have areas on our property that have previously been cleared and that the regrowth has been slower to reach management status and this has now been re categorized as virgin.

Our particular part of the Queensland has no direct impact on the Barrier Reef. It has no rainforest and has minimal runoff to any river system. The vegetation cover has increased since European habitation to a point that large areas of Downs Country is now Woodlands.

Livestock producers have used the Mulga tree as an integral part of their operation as an excellent form of fodder that is renewable and sustainable if managed properly. Any restrictions on the use of this important feed tree will spell the death-knell of many livestock operations and the towns and communities that they support. This ultimately would result in a much heavier burden on the already strained welfare budget. These people would then require housing in already strained coastal areas. A no win for the reef. Not to mention the mental health affects this would have on the former rural people that are only trying to make an honest living and be self-funded retirees who are trying to manage their own business in the bush.

The carrying capacity on our property has decreased from 9000 DSE (dry sheep equivalent) when we purchased it in 1998 to about 6000 DSE currently, due to drought, regrowth and large numbers of Kangaroos that use this vegetation as a safe haven. We do not ask to clear all the vegetation as occurs when housing estates are built. But to a reasonable balance between livestock production and sustainable environmental outcomes that we can with some consultation with Government progress to a better future for all.

Signed:	Peta & Robert Hanna  
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