

In providing this submission there are crucial parts of the legislation which need to be amended.

**1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework.**

By hindering the process farmers take, which is to clear small, sustainable areas to develop cultivations for cropping it will have a huge impact on not only being able to produce food (grain) for an ever increasing population, but also affect the welfare & survival of livestock, particularly in drought times. The legislation will stop farmers investing in agriculture (food & fibre production for the future).

**2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes.**

The landowner is the most knowledgeable person when it comes to caring for their land. In many cases the properties have been passed down or bought from the generation/s before them, so there is that connection & understanding of the land. The landholders & their families have gone through all that "Mother Nature" can deliver (droughts, fires & floods) as well as often low commodity prices & vegetation laws. They know how to work with all these complications and ensure there is the correct balance between the amount of trees & productive, sustainable pastures. The Self-Assessable codes have in the past reduced time & cost taken to make applications for managing the vegetation on their properties.

**3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold & Indigenous land.**

Regrowth is the thickening of vegetation on our productive land. It chokes out the grass deteriorating the value of the pastures, as well as causing substantial erosion. This is a crucial area that landholders work hard to prevent as their livelihood depends on keeping their land healthy.

**4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York & Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.**

This increased mapping for watercourses & essential habitat areas is just more unnecessary "red tape" for farmers. Already the watercourses in Queensland are choked up with so much vegetation that it is preventing the natural flow of water. Each individual tree daily consumes copious amounts of water in these watercourses. The native species of fauna thrive on the improved pastures where the grass is of better quality than that which grows amongst the trees.

**5. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements.**

When regulations prevent landholders from growing food or fibre on their land they should be paid by government compensation annually for loss of income off that land. Also, to be taken into

consideration is the real estate value of the land will decrease considerably if its potential productivity is reduced.

**6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.**

Section 4 of Legislative Standards Act 1992 shows that the Bill breaches fundamental legislative principles (FLPs). This means that this legislation proposed does in fact impact on the rights and liberties of individuals and the object is by no means fair. If the Queensland Government penalises farmers for daring to attempt to invest in future food production on their land it will have devastating consequences. Because of the Bill there will be lack of primary production in various areas throughout Queensland & whole communities will suffer. The financial stress of making ends meet as well as mental health & wellbeing issues including anxiety, depression & acute stress disorder will soar.

**7. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration.**

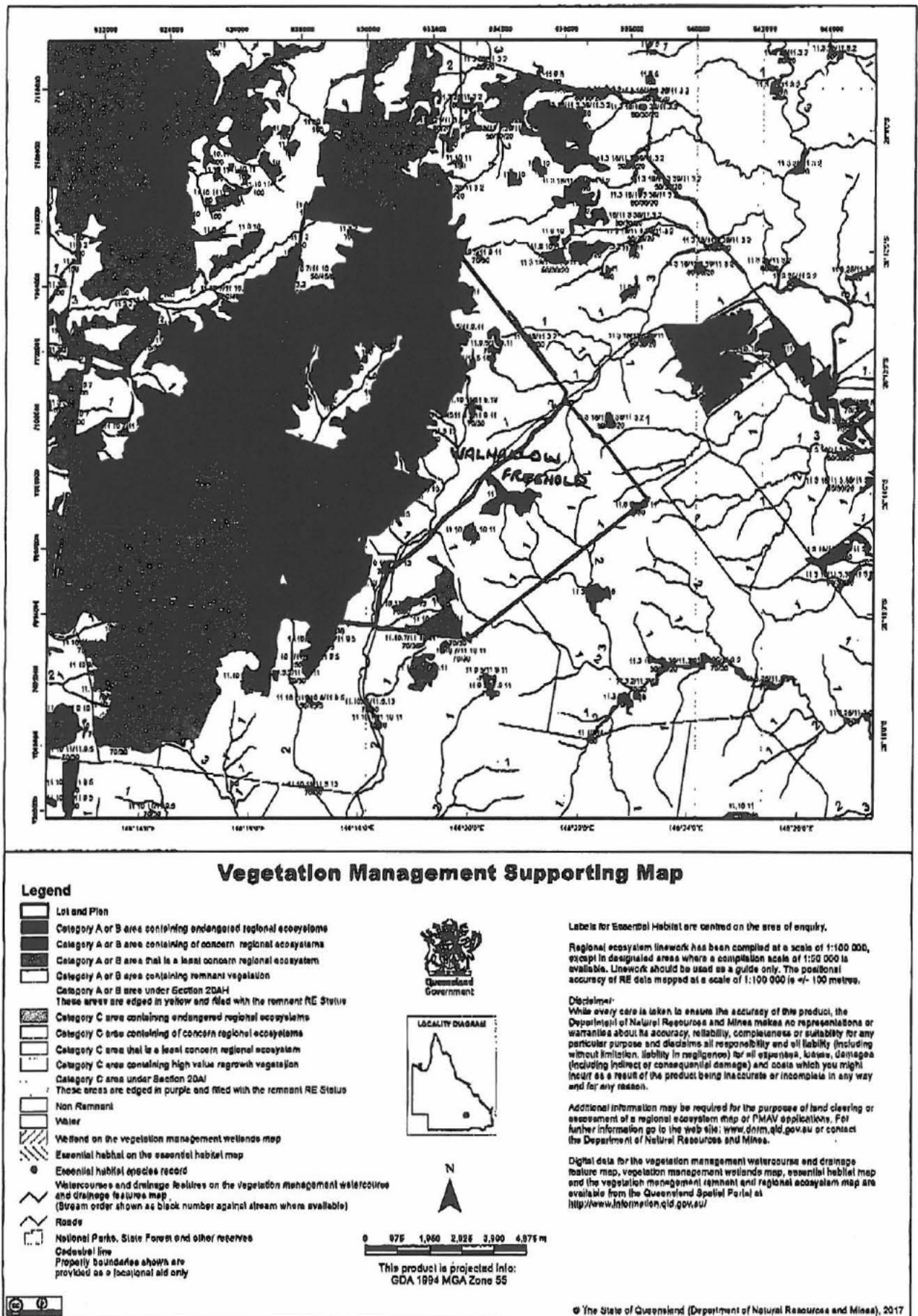
We have 11735 hectares of land, of which 3833 hectares have been taken & made into Forestry lease. We were paying off the property as well as paying to Freehold & trying to develop throughout the various seasons including drought, when in approx. Yr 2000 the Beattie Government first brought in the Vegetation Management Act. With much shading in of potentially productive paddocks, which when first settled was sparsely timbered & ran hundreds of head of cattle are now deemed to be of concern or endangered regional ecosystems by the Department. It now only runs a few head of stock when it's a good season. There was no compensation when this land was taken by Government & it left us with just one third of the total amount we originally bought.

The one third of land remaining is healthy & productive for grazing cattle. It is a landscape with the right balance of trees & grass where native & domestic animals co-exist together in all seasons, watering at dams & bores that we put in, as there is no permanent water on Walhallow. The two thirds of land taken by Government is very much in a ongoing state of deterioration. The trees have thickened considerably & they are choking each other out & if there is any grass in those areas it is of no food value to domestic or native animals. Also the amount of erosion which has occurred as a result of wall to wall timber is very disturbing.

We have 3 children who love & understand the land they grew up on. We have not encouraged them to return to make their living off the land as there is no certainty or prospects for rural futures for them & I am sure that is the case of many other farmers. To be sustainable now & into the future, in this country, farmers need to be able to make decisions based on true proven science rather than propaganda.



## 5.2 Vegetation management supporting map "WALHALLOW"



"WALHALLOW" 4mBY



ABOVE: ONCE PRODUCTIVE LAND NOW TAKEN OVER BY  
INVASIVE WOODY WEEDS IN 'ENDANGERED REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS'



THIS IS SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVE LAND SENSIBLY MANAGED ON  
WALHALLOW

Signed:	P. D. G. [Signature]
Address:	
Date:	20-3-18