

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.

<p>The role of providing high quality protein , in the form of 100% grass/pasture produced beef is one in which the partners at Boogal Cattle Co take extreme pride and considered management. Boogal Cattle Co is a family concern, with 5th generation beef cattlemen now following in the business. Under our manangement, there are some 20,000 hectares of varying land types ranging from red soil scrub, timbered ridges to undulating granite plains.... including both Freehold and Leashold land. Over the years, thoughtful selective clearing has been carried out. Improved pastures and nitrogen fixing legumes have been planted and native species of grasses have also flourished as the soil receives a boost and is not drained by the thirsty tree roots. Clearing of the trees is by no means the end of the processone thing this country can do and do well.... is grow more trees ! The need to control regrowth on these productive areas is a high priority. If not carried out routinely, the consequences are a hugh loss in production.... which of course equates to a reduction in the number of kilograms of beef able to be harvested. If the ability to manage regrowth is taken away, large tracts of land will very quickly be reduced in value. Our property "Boogalgopal" lies either side of the sandy bottomed creek by the same name..and having seen massive floods rage down the creek and also the gullies that feed the creek, we are in no doubt, that the existence of trees in, and along these creek banks, has led to more destruction than were the banks grassed over with soil binding grasses. It is our experience that the roots of trees on the banks of water courses create severe erosion problems where water swirls creating huge washouts ,and loss of soil after the trees are washed over.....instead of flowing evenly over grassed banks. We are sceptical of the "Science" that underpins the Vegetation Management Laws....and the poliitical reasons behind the seemingly "dogged" hounding of the agricultural sector. Experience on one's own land MUST be accounted for, and at least a modicum of interest in seeing ,first hand ,the degree of passion real "farmers" have for the land in which their lives ...and those of their families.... are invested, should be shown by the "Law-Makers" Politicians need to listen to those whose livelihoods depend on their ability to make decisions on their own landas management decisions vary from acre to acre..... with each land type.....</p>
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Signed:	Bottom Line... We want what is best for our land based on over 60 years of experience and these proposed changes are totally unmanageable.	HE Burnham
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