

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.

The proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act will severely impact on our business. We will no longer be able to sustainably manage regrowth and woody weeds. The control of this allows for greater grass growth and minimising of runoff and soil erosion. It will also mean more red tape, costs and time lag for farmers trying to feed their animals during drought. They will shut down new agricultural development opportunities at a time when global demand for Australian food and fibre was at an all-time high. We want to long-lasting solutions that deliver good outcomes for both agriculture and the environment.

It is vital that farmers are able to continue to manage their land sustainably so that can continue to be productive and supply products.

Signed:



Address:

Date:

20/3/18 .