

## SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

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

The removal of high value agriculture will have a huge impact on our future development, as when we purchased this property it had no improvements on it, but potential for both dry land and Irrigation cropping.

As a result of not being able to do any improvements, we are now more susceptible to drought as the timber keeps getting thicker, and we aren't even allowed to plant a bit of grass, this too affects the wildlife as they too have to adapt to the changing landscape.

I do understand we will NEVER be allowed to make this property "Drought Proof." However with a little bit of **FREEDOM** we could hold our own for one (1) even two (2) years of droughts.

The media and science likes to keep telling everyone how the words population is getting bigger and bigger and we are going to need more food to feed everyone, yet the **GREENS** and **LABOUR** would like us to produce **LESS** food and in the same breath say how they are making the future better for the next generation.

### 2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

Science-based self-assessable codes help farmers carry out the routine vegetation management practices necessary to sustainably produce food and fibre.

The self-assessable codes help farmers ensure trees and grass stay in balance, avoid soil erosion and feed animals in drought.

Although we have not used the Self-Assessable codes as finance has been an issue, I have done applications under the previous (and soon to be current) legislation, and delays and stalling and then refusal, takes YEARS.

To summarise, If we can do a little bit at a time, as finance and seasons suit, we can look after the country and animals and therefore pay **MORE TAX**. The alternative is we get what we can out of the country before the **WEEDS** and undergrowth make the country unviable. Then **SELL** to some overseas company that doesn't know what they are getting into.

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

I have heard of but not seen the new management maps as the internet is slow and unpredictable and as other maps are incorrect in places I don't see why these will be any better.

The examples are many, the most common is **WEEDS**. (Rubber vine, Chinese apple, Belly-ache bush, etc.) Growing along water courses and creeks, but because of their thickness of canopy it looks on the map like it is full of trees.

Your photos and/or maps here.

I add no photos as no one will believe them and it looks different for the air.

I have talked to the department about some errors in the mapping, but was told their maps were right, and that the maps and photos I had were wrong.

(Hard to argue with that logic.) Nothing was changed.

**The Government is essentially adding an extra regulation over FREEHOLD/indigenous land, do we tell people who live in the city they cannot remove a tree to put in a pool, a new pavement or shed in their backyard?**

The future of not only this property but many other will be impacted as not only makes us less viable overall, but makes it almost impossible to expand and has future generations consider other options rather than continuing on with Farming / Grazing.

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

**How will any of the 'developing' the North get off the ground if it is not even a possibility in the first place.**

**The more RED tape and the harder it is made to do things, will result in it all being put in the "TOO HARD BASKET."**

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

This is no surprise as farmer bashing is the easiest thing to do as most farmers / graziers don't hear about it for a few weeks after the fact. Anti-bullying doesn't count if it's done against primary producers as there are less of them.



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

This Bill potentially breaches fundamental legislative principles (FLPs) as outlined in section 4 of the Legislative Standards Act 1992.

Legislation should have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and consequently should not adversely affect rights and liberties, or impose obligations, retrospectively.

**How is it that a person that KILLS another, still has the right of "INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY" but a farmer is "GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN HIS OWN INNOCENTS?"**



**Penalties and fines are not in proportion with penalties and fines for other more serious acts.**

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

- Farmers/producers will develop sustainably if given the appropriate frameworks.
- We need legislation not to change every 5 seconds otherwise we cannot plan for the future,
- We cannot get investment from banks or private investments due to constant change when governments change.
- We want the opportunity to drought proof our business for a sustainable future.
- Self-Assessable Codes have been very useful and more cost effective than lodging applications.
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The overall rule is the LESS money we make the LESS people we employ.

**You may be concerned about my land, but I bet you aren't half concerned about it, as I am. It is my PRESENT, PAST and my kids FUTURE.**

Signed:	Raymond Barrett. 
Address:	
Date:	19 March 2018