

SUBMISSION

I provide my submission on rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management (Re-enactments) 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.

My inability to control regrowth in ~~High Value Regrowth Areas~~ will make it virtually impossible to manage weeds and feral pests as is required by me under the Biosecurity act which has been forced upon us.

In addition the above issues, the inability to control regrowth in watercourses will lead to excessive timber cover, which will reduce grass cover, which in turn will result in much higher rates of erosion which will be bad for the reef, reduce our carrying capacity, lower our income (so less tax for the government) and devalue our asset.

I love my trees, but in this country they have to be kept under control.

Signed:

D.R. Smith

Address:

Date:

20-3-2018