

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: proposed vegetation regrowth zone
Date: Tuesday, 20 March 2018 2:32:56 PM

Dear Secretary,

We write in regard to the new proposed zoning which part of our property will be affected by.

Basically we are dismayed by it for important reasons concerning the native vegetation itself as well as our income from the land as you can read below.

We are very concerned because we have been managing this area by cleaning up the undergrowth consisting of guava and lantana bushes and noxious weeds over a period of 25 years with the intention of keeping it a clean and beautifully forested area where our cattle can also find grass to eat (which is already there) in amongst the trees. We have been clearing sections all over the area in question in the last 15 years, but without use of dozers so this is not visible from satellite imagery. We feel this is unfair to not have been clearing so it is visible from space and have to pay to have the rezoning corrected. This rezoning would interfere with the running of the property, affect our income by reducing usable land by a large percentage and possibly affect the resale value in the future with a view to our retirement which will mean we will have to rely more heavily on government funding i.e. the pension. This new zoning will also mean it will be overrun by unwanted vegetation. Our property is under 100 acres so this will affect it and others adjoining it so much more.

As it stands we have a large amount of trees all over this property and are very much wanting to take care of it as best we can, we appreciate trees and do not want to radically clear any of the land here. When we bought this property the open areas were thickly covered by guava bushes and many still remain. Lantana had also grown thickly. Guava and lantana are spread easily by seed or suckers. This area in question is not even as thickly covered with native vegetation as a section of the low priority vegetation we also have on our property which is has a much denser canopy with no or very little grass underneath. Other parts of it are very similar to the new area under rezoning so it makes it difficult to figure why the new area has been made so significant.

If there is concern for erosion, this property used to have a 3 meter deep gully gauged through the paddock but we have stopped any further erosion by filling the gully, it is protected and has grass roots holding the top soil together so is no longer eroding. Besides that the land is not actually that steep and the cleared areas of it have weathered huge downpours without any erosion. We had major floods in Mackay in 2008 and other major rainfall and cyclone events as well which has not affected the rezoned area.

We strongly plead for reconsideration of such radical rezoning not just for ourselves but for the many responsible land owners in this state who love our flora and fauna and want to manage their land wisely.

Yours Sincerely,

Mats and Pamela Gustafsson