

## **SUBMISSION**

I provide my submission in respect of the proposed Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to be included in the SDNRAIDC's detailed consideration.

In providing this submission I refer directly to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the Introductory Speech of the Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, of 8 March 2018, and the Explanatory Notes that encompass the proposed changes to the above Acts and a range of commentary and issues.

In my opinion the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 proposed changes are oppressive, restrictive and onerous and do not reflect the expert knowledge and understanding that landholders hold after decades of sustainable land management.

I do not in any way support broad scale land clearing or land degradation however I do not support and cannot operate with our industry being heavily regulated and debilitated by new oppressive vegetation management laws.

My opinion is set out below:-

## FODDER CODE

### Clause 37 (new Part 6, Division 13 – s139 ‘Revocation of particular area management plan’)

- s139(1) – the ‘Managing Fodder Harvesting Mulga Lands Fodder Area Management Plan’ is revoked. A new revised Code is in place – ‘Managing fodder harvesting accepted development clearing code’.
- s139(2) - A notice of intended clearing under the Plan ceases to have effect on 8 March 2018, and no further clearing can be carried out under the Plan from 8 March 2018. Landholders need to lodge a new notification under the new Code and follow the requirements of the new Code.
- New s136 phases out landholder-driven area management plans as a mechanism for managing low-risk clearing that is or may be managed by the accepted development vegetation clearing codes. This new section provides that an area management plan relating to the clearing for fodder harvesting continues but only remains in force until 8 March 2020.
- Landholders need to lodge a new notification under the new Code.

Introductory Speech - Dr LYNHAM: *“In conjunction with this bill, I asked my department to progress the review of the revised fodder code on which we consulted in 2016 and commence a rolling program to revise and implement the other acceptable development codes throughout 2018. The revised managing fodder harvesting code has been developed by my department based on scientific input from the Queensland Herbarium and the CSIRO. The immediate remake of the managing fodder harvesting and the managing thickened vegetation codes will invalidate all previous clearing notifications and introduce for the first time size and time limits on the areas able to be notified for clearing under an accepted development code. My department will be consulting throughout 2018 with stakeholders to finalise the remaining codes.”*

Explanatory Notes: Revoking the Mulga Lands Fodder Area Management Plan reinforces the role and function of the accepted development vegetation clearing code for fodder harvesting being the supported mechanism in which low-risk clearing activities are undertaken. Landholders can continue to undertake self-assessable clearing under the accepted development vegetation clearing code for fodder harvesting, or alternatively, apply for a development permit under the Planning Act 2016.

The two year period recognises that, in some instances, the clearing requirements for encroachment, thinning and fodder harvesting under current area management plans may not be consistent with the best available science.

This revocation of the Managing fodder harvesting Mulga Lands Fodder Area Management Plan is a decision that shows not only ignorance on the part of the person who has researched the impact but also the person taking it for gospel. For a start the Herbarium talks about clearing Mulga NOT using Mulga for fodder. It also states that soil carbon was reduced. Now this data was ‘obtained’ in 2005, even today in 2018 the accuracy of soil carbon is not validated as

methodology is only just coming up to speed with knowing how to obtain accurate measurement. The other aspect to that argument is, there is no baseline on which to base this assumption on. There is also no follow up after a period where Mulga has been allowed to regenerate and NOT put to pasture. Carbon, on current models, is actually seen to be increased if trees are able to be pulled but left in the area in which they were cleared. I do not see research of these models being put to Parliament.

Fodder harvesting is very different to clearing vegetation. Whilst harvesting fodder is done with machinery, it is attended to in a set out method to limit habitat impact and soil disturbance. If Mulga does not regenerate, then we, the landowners would be extremely remiss to pull it to feed our stock for generations to come. As pulling Mulga for fodder has been around for generations, it is evident that regeneration is not an issue. It has sustained many farming families and communities over the centuries.

The new, proposed methods of assessment or code would mean the amount of time and money taken for a landholder to go through the hoops would mean our livestock would be dead before an appropriate answer was obtained. Now, I believe the RSPCA would be interested if the government prevents feeding of animals especially those who are currently desperate for rain and feed. Currently South Western Queensland is in the grips of severe drought and you have pulled the proverbial rug out from under all the landowners desperately trying to keep their stock alive. Yet again, does the Queensland government not wish for Queenslanders to have a rural industry at all? Do you want foreign ownership and have all our clean and green products going off our shores to be replaced by a questionable inferior quality product?

This new infra structure not only requires an incredible cost outlay, but technology like GPS, mobile phones, ipads etc. Well I'm not sure if you are aware, but the inferior networks that we have to deal with do not support most of these devices. The result of these disastrous changes will have rural Queensland living like a third world country. You are proposing immoral changes that impact every aspect of trying to produce the basic necessities of living, which are food and fibre. It seems ok to clear as many trees as you like to make housing estates and roads, why can we not selectively clear trees that feed our livestock, are very resilient and regenerate significantly?

## OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS

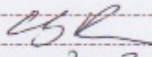
Introductory Speech - Dr LYNHAM: *"I believe this bill and the complementary measures that I have outlined will deliver on the election commitment to deliver a more sustainable vegetation management framework for Queensland. This government will continue to work with our vital agricultural sector so that together we can care for the environment and ensure that their farms can pass, in good condition and in safe hands, from generation to generation."*

*"The amendments that I bring into the parliament are necessary to protect Queensland's remnant and high-value regrowth vegetation. It is all about restoring a sustainable vegetation management framework for managing a valuable resource on behalf of the people of Queensland."*

*"Within three years in Queensland clearing rates of remnant native vegetation increased from 59,800 hectares in 2012-13 to 138,000 in 2015-16. This amendment bill seeks to end the levels of broadscale clearing that the LNP legislation created."*

Having run a successful sustainable grazing practice for over twenty five years, nine of those in Mulga country, I find the fact that the Queensland Labour Government has decided it knows how to run country and livestock better than ourselves and many others like us who have had even many more years. Sustainability is the key. By this regimented, narrow -minded view- point what you will be doing is aiding and abetting a monoculture of trees. Now, as it is clear agricultural practices are not your strong point, I will explain that a monoculture of ANYTHING does not give you diversity or sustainability.

Like many people, you have chosen to seek out research that only references your desired outcome. I challenge you to seek a more unbiased opinion. For instance, there is modelling around showing how thinning can actually improve carbon cycle and more sustainable, healthier vegetation than untouched vegetation. Under the Beattie government, a Labour government PMAV maps were introduced so that changes could not be made without due process. If you can't even stick with your own parties' policies, what hope have you got?

Signed:	
Date:	20-3-18