

## 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.

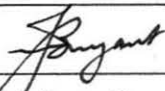

Describe the impacts the changes will make to stall agriculture, discourage investment, and increase costs and time to manage vegetation.

**We are against proposed changes to Vegetation Management Laws regarding fodder harvesting.**

- **Fodder harvesting is not tree clearing.** It is the practice of knocking the mulga over to feed stock in dry times & allowing it to regrow to be used in future droughts.
- **A paddock which has been fodder harvested in no way resembles a paddock which has been cleared.**
  - In harvested country, young mulga plants & seedlings respond to ground disturbance & grow rapidly. More mature trees which are pulled over & are lying down, often regrow, as roots are still imbedded in soil. There is a ground cover of fallen logs, suckers & young plants.
  - A cleared paddock will have no logs, no timber regrowth & very little standing timber but may have grass cover or crops.
- **Mulga is an essential drought management source.**
- **Mulga regrows rapidly after drought making it a vital user of carbon. Fodder harvesting therefore supports environmental reforms.**
- **Pulling versus pushing – pushing is not time or fuel efficient. If pushing is the only option to make fodder available to current numbers of livestock, then the only choice left is to reduce herd sizes. This will impact –**
  - The availability of food for the nation – food production will be significantly reduced
  - The agricultural sector's ability to support the Nation's economy
  - Farm viability – less stock means less income
  - Welfare dependence – farmers, farm workers & business people will be unable to support themselves
  - Money spent on farm improvements

- Children's education – no boarding school
- Money spent in local businesses - if people don't have money, they can't spend
- Regional growth – it stops
- Jobs – farmers can't pay for help, businesses can't pay for help
- Businesses – they will fold
- Family farms - not handed on – generations of hard work lost
- People in the industry – they will leave.
- Tax paid to the government – less income means less tax
- Fairness & rights – there seems to be a rule for farmers and no rules for anyone else.
  - Large swathes of pristine bush & range land being cleared for mine & gas projects, roads (Toowoomba range upgrade and then the Toowoomba range crossing), rail lines, high voltage power lines, housing & industrial development. The government imposes strict laws over farmers' land to pull back the total percentages of land being cleared. They are using farmers to prop up the data.
- Previous vegetation management laws introduced by Labour governments resulted in a large percentage of clearing that would otherwise not have taken place on a broad scale in a short time frame. Clearing land may not have been a necessity. Land would have been conservatively managed and improved over time.
- The legislation introduced by the coalition government, was fair and acceptable to the majority of landowners and they were willing to work within these guidelines.
- Farmers are the best custodians of their land because they know their livelihood depends on it.
- An honest day's work for a fair go – that's all farmers ask for. Does this Government care enough to afford them this simple right?

*The government needs to consider the serious consequences of their proposed legislation. Has thought been given to what could result if the future for these farmers suddenly appears hopeless? Is the government prepared to turn their backs on their liability in that?*

Signed:	 J A Bryant
Address:	
Date:	