

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Submission re Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 20 March 2018 4:32:20 PM

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To State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development
Committee

I am a rural landowner and have witnessed over the years how land clearing has devastated the natural environment. Not only has it resulted in the direct loss of huge areas of native bushland it has also resulted in widespread soil erosion, increased soil salinity and contributed to changed rainfall patterns resulting in longer periods of dry weather with more extreme rainfall events.

It is clear that the current rules which were weakened by the previous government when they were in power are not working. Many landowners do a great job but those that took advantage of weak regulations made everyone look bad.

I support the proposed Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. In particular I support the removal of provisions allowing clearing for high value agriculture. There is huge scope for improving agricultural productivity using the vast areas of land already cleared.

I also support provisions to protect high value regrowth.

The current thinning code should be removed as recent experience has proved that self-assessable thinning codes have failed to protect valuable vegetation from damage.

Fodder harvesting provisions should be tied to drought declarations. Land that is so marginal that it cannot be grazed outside of drought times without damaging native vegetation is clearly not suitable for that purpose.

The test of any vegetation management laws is the results out on the land. It is clear that current rules have resulted in accelerated loss and degradation of large areas of valuable native vegetation. There is no question that change is needed to limit this failure.

I urge the Committee to get it right. The results of your deliberations and action in ensuring improved vegetation protection laws will be visible for all to see in the future.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards

Anthony Van Kampen