

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework

Australia and in particular Queensland has a huge capacity to produce food and fibre for the growing world population, but this legislation will greatly affect this by taking away the ability of landholders to plan and implement strategies that enhance and sustain productive methods. Urban populations, be they politicians or commentators, have NO BUSINESS making policies about rural practices and management, as they lack the in depth understanding of the issues. Farmers have invested their lives in the soil on which they live. They know how to manage it. Very rarely do you get a farmer that doesn't think of the longevity of the land which they tend!!!! It's never only about profit!! if farmers farmed for profit there would be no farmers left on the land.

The Mulga Bio Region should be treated as a separate area. The value of this region is the fact that we will NEVER run out of mulga trees because of their constant thickening. Scientific evidence by Mills, Miles (1990) refers to the role of mulga in the degradation cycle. Mulga left unmanaged will take over like a cancer, will thicken to the point where it negatively affects all our native wildlife and ecosystems by choking out all our native grasses and trees. This causes land values to fall, decline in production and a woody weed invasion. Land holders in this region are utilising Mulga to feed hungry animals, and the government is tying us up in red tape to stop it. More fodder means more livestock which means in means everybody has work.

I am asking a few question of the Queensland Government, not just for myself, but all farmers, workers and etc.

WHY are you the Qld Government trying to take our jobs?

WHY are you trying to make it harder for us; the workers?

Mulga trees are fodder trees and will regenerate. More fodder means more livestock means everybody has work. Including regional towns, Station hands, Ringers, Fencers, transport (livestock, fuel, dry lick) operators etc are affected by this legislation.

Due to the new Vegetation Tree Clearing Laws, the old and new generation of farmers won't be able to stay on the land. Their sheep/cattle/goats will suffer and vanish along with some of our native wildlife, and soon so will small country towns and businesses.

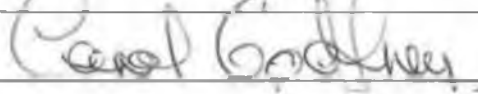
2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes
<p>it is vitally important to maintain self-assessable codes for fodder harvesting. Farmers know long before anyone just what is happening regarding their properties. The time lag before government departments become aware of a situation is far too long and in most cases ignored until it becomes severe, and by this time it is far too late and costly to rectify.</p> <p>Landholders are required to submit all sorts of information by a certain date but Government departments take as long as they require with no consequences for delays. This impact is costly and stressful and as a result noncompliance is now an issue. The current self-assessable code is very effective, and far more cost effective than lodging a time consuming, confusing application.</p>
3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
<p>Concern exists regarding the lack of skilled personnel within the Department, and the lack of understanding of just how valuable certain regions are for production, and how to manage that ecosystem. Mapping has been shown to be wrong, but with little or no consideration given to correction by the Department, the situation escalates. The result is that areas are no longer productive, costing landholders and communities.</p>
4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.
This has no direct effect on our Mulga region.
5. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements
<p>Why were these layers introduced?? Just who benefits from them??? Or is it a simple vote grabbing exercise for the Green vote????</p>
6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.
<p>In the Mulga Region landholders should not be penalised for fodder harvesting outside given areas. Most landholders have planned where they will harvest keeping in mind water proximity and thickness of mulga, number of stock to be feed and time of season.</p> <p>Landholders, Government Departments and scientists back in 2001 came up with a workable solution for all groups with regard to Fodder Harvesting. This model was workable, sustainable and manageable by all parties, so why the need to change it??????</p> <p>Over that time frame there has been a dramatic increase in thickening of mulga trees in this region.</p>

7. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration

With frequent changes to legislation it is impossible to plan for the future and it is harder to get finance from banks as they don't like uncertainty. Planning is vitally important to us and helps in time of drought when landholders are under huge stress to feed stock and stay afloat. Any incentive is taken away with this legislation.

We live in an area of Queensland that is enduring some of the driest condition on record. We need to have the opportunity to drought proof our business for a sustainable future and these new laws will jeopardise this greatly.

Farmers have proven to be the best land managers regarding weeds and feral animal control, where as various Governments have not invested in their own land to manage the weeds and pests (eg National Parks eg Binya National Park, next door to us) This is evident in our area and now we are in a situation where the Queensland Government is not and will not listen to our agricultural industry leaders and they think they know BEST. It is a blatant disregard for the years of experience that farmers and graziers have, producing food and fibre for this Nation to export.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	20-3-2018