

SUBMISSION

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

1. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

Costs will increase due to the time taken to apply for approval. Retaining self-assessable codes gives flexibility to the land owner to conduct thinning or regrowth management at any time as long as they have a good understanding of the self-assessable codes. Self-assessable codes are fairer to the landowner because they are bio-region specific.

The self-assessable code did not limit land size whereas the new code will limit landowners to 10% of the colour areas.

The self-assessable codes, when applied properly, provided a safe and sustainable management practise. We have found that the self-assessable codes are the most economic and practical solution for managing thickened vegetation rather than being restrictive, which in turn will reduce productivity and property value over the next five years.

We strongly believe the implementation of these codes of the proposed bill will fail to maintain adequate grass cover and biodiversity. This will have a flow on effect by losing topsoil to the Great Barrier Reef.

2. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land

The pre-proposed legislation was adequate to manage vegetation on our property. In our opinion the new proposed bill relating to HVR should only affect leasehold land and any other changes to freehold shall be compensated under a forced acquisition model.

3. 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

Clearly this needs to be reconstructed or remodelled to allow compensation for reductions to land value and yearly revenue.

The national flow on effect will be impacted in the following areas:-

- Capital Gains Tax
- Stamp Duty
- GST
- Income tax and payroll tax
- Rural investment
- Exports
- Rural employment