

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.

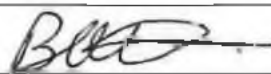
The impacts of the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act include;

- 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.

The proposed amendments to the Vegetation Management laws will have a profound effect on the ability of Queensland agriculture to remain a prosperous industry in a number of ways:

- The ability to manage land in the best balance between environmental health & productivity will be lost
- Will discourage the investment required to see the industry keep progressing & innovating particularly when new entrants to the industry are concerned
- Removes the opportunity for strategic high value development of prime agricultural land to improve drought resilience at both the producer & community level
- Adds further regulatory burden to an industry that is time poor due to a lack of skilled labour particularly for routine vegetation management activities
- Makes it harder for the next generation of highly educated & passionate primary producers to continue operating well managed inter-generational businesses
- In general it will discourage those that have always managed their land well in the interest of the environment & long term sustainability to continue operating in QLD

Signed:	BRETT MATTHEW SMITH 
Address:	
Date:	21/03/2018