

## SUBMISSION

Our family has been on Angellala Downs for 110 years. The country has been well managed by four generations over that time and is a viable, productive, family run cattle and sheep enterprise supporting two families and putting the next generation through Boarding School. With one stroke of the pen by the Queensland Government our future has been changed.

It is due to the love of our land and good management practices such as selective clearing that we have a very healthy variety of ecosystems consisting of animals, birds, insects, grasses, shrubs and many, many trees. If we are restricted in managing our land, as the new laws will do, unnatural thickening and encroachment will leave our land unviable.

Mechanically clearing the land, keeping the undergrowth down and creating a balance of grass and trees is exactly what the aboriginals were doing with fire 200 years ago. Encroachment of woody weeds and pests choke out areas that can be covered in grasses.

We want the opportunity to drought proof our business for a sustainable future which includes agistment of land and purchase of a mulga land. We cannot do this with constantly changing legislation leading to uncertainty and confusion. Banks and private investors will not invest in that changeable business environment.

Of great concern is the amendments to the codes for fodder harvesting. If we cannot harvest mulga to feed starving stock in times of drought due to unworkable restrictions being placed on our properties our cattle will die!

Self-Assessable Codes have been very useful and more cost effective than lodging applications. Science based self-assessable codes help us to carry out the routine vegetation management practices necessary to sustainably deliver our products. These codes help us to ensure that trees and grass stay in balance, avoid soil erosion and feed animals in drought.

The new amendments to the code add extra complexities that people on the land do not need when they are trying to also deal with climate, markets, interest rates and existing policies. In addition, the penalties for not complying, even if mistakenly so, have effectively been tripled adding another level of stress.

One of the most worrying outcomes of these changes is the effect on communities. When producers are able to run their businesses to their full potential the flow on effect to small towns is immense. These changes effect employment, local town businesses, school enrolments and families leaving small towns for larger centres to find employment.

To the Queensland Government – Let us run our businesses, as many of us have done for generations, the way we need to to remain viable, productive and efficient, while creating a sustainable environment to pass on to the next generation. Do not cripple us with Red Tape!

Signed:	David and Louise Winten
Address:	
Date:	20/03/2018