

## SUBMISSION

I provide my submission on rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 ("the Bill").

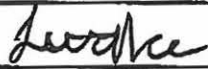

This constant change in legislation severely impacts on the ability of farm managers to plan and implement effective long-term property and business management decisions. Ecological processes work in much longer timeframes and can be severely compromised when mismatching regulations are enforced. Farmers 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.

- mapping is consistently inaccurate e.g. marking power lines as areas of high risk.
- changes to categories requires consistent payment to the Government to return areas to non-impact e.g. aquaculture ponds
- previously approval for expansions are impacted by changes cause personal & financial impacts
- why are farmers subject to increased rulings and seen as 'guilty' but residential development can knock trees down & not be responsible for natural animals or plants loss & not be held accountable for drainage/erosion issues caused
- compensation - unlikely to be seen or there will be a complicated process to claim which will be costly in terms of time & money to prepare applications
- farmers have local knowledge of impacts of water courses & are concerned re-erosion as this impacts on their viability; so farmers automatically manage their land clearing when not threatened by the governments fines and charges in regulations
- use history appropriately to see that farmers have been effective land managers for decades
- consider the cost of food production - without ability to feed stock from mulga plants during drought; the need to be able to rotate crop. production
- how can we feed our massively growing population into the future.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	21-03-2018