

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 362 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.

Removes the ability to plan for future management of regrowth vegetation. The inability to do this will eventually put the rural industry in an unviable situation, with grazing areas vastly reduced, and carrying capacities affected proportionately. Overstocking will surely increase in the areas that can be grazed: the result – land and pasture degradation.

The reduction of financial returns will discourage investment and reduce the value of rural land. Bank foreclosures will increase.

Rural work force will be reduced due to economic down turn. The rural workers will be forced to relocate to towns and cities to try to find work.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	21-03-17