

The logo features the word "Karingal" in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below it, the word "monogorilby" is written in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font. A thin, curved line underlines the word "Karingal".P:
E:Thursday 22nd March, 2018

Committee Secretary
State Development , Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir / Madam:

RE: Objection to Palaszczuk Government's Proposed Vegetation Management Laws

We are third generation beef producers located in the Burnett Mary Catchment Area in Queensland. Our family has been on the land and in this area for over one hundred (100) years. We both hold executive positions on the Central Burnett Landcare Group committee. We are actively involved in and are members of our two local Natural Resource Management Groups – Burnett Catchment Care Association (BCCA) & Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG).

We **strongly object** to the Palaszczuk Government's revised **unsustainable** Vegetation Management laws. This revised law is sending a clear and disdainful message to Farmers that the Palaszczuk Government do not support farming families to continue to provide clean, green food and fibre for our local and global communities.

Farmers are educated, progressive, resourceful and innovative and deserve to be heard!

The multiple formal scholarly training, practical workshop events and ongoing and continuous professional development that we have invested in over the last 20 years to help us keep up to date with, and implement, contemporary ecologically sustainable and regenerative farming practices have not at any point been unacknowledged by the Palaszczuk Government. This is extremely offensive. Your party have not at any point invited us to address the vegetation management laws in a collaborative and collegial manner; instead we have experienced contemptuous and disrespectful alienation from the decision making process. To have written and published the changes prior to any form public consultation disregards our generations of formally and pragmatically acquired knowledges. **We are insulted that you have chosen to only allocate twelve (12) hours of public hearings** for these changes.

The courses and practices we have invested our time and money in are our investment in our land. We take our stewardship responsibilities very seriously as we do this for both our families and the



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greater good of all Australians. What is not being reflected throughout this process or in the media is that we CARE. We truly deeply and very emotionally care for and are connected to our land.

Stewardship of our land is at the heart of what we do every day in every way!

Objecting to these new laws is not a protest against greening Australia. Our objections are a vote of confidence that allows Farmers and Forestry workers to continue to responsibly and safely manage our vegetation in ways that preserve soils, prevent run-off to protect the reef (grass is far more effective than trees) and protect rare and endangered tree species (which are already protected under current law).

These laws will prevent many established and ecologically sound land management practices and will halt future economic viability of our farms and for Northern QLD it will hobble the fantastic opportunities opening up for our First Nation Peoples. These Northern QLD projects are delivering hope, dignity and a real opportunity for Indigenous people to return to Country with pride and not a handout. So to just wipe out Northern Development and devalue our land overnight without our input is devastating and will cause severe unnecessary financial hardship to many hard working Aussies.

Food security for growing middle class, discerning consumers compromised!

I'd love to know how Palaszczuk Government plans on increasing agricultural production to keep up with ever expanding local and international middle class populations whilst simultaneously restricting the development and continuous improvement of land needed to meet consumer expectations of clean, quality food. Provenance and farming practices such as low stress cattle handling, rotational grazing, conservative stocking rates are non-negotiable practices to us and our consumers are increasing aware of these practices and purchasing decisions are influenced by these ideologies. In an era of sustainability it is ludicrous to me that we would destroy our nation's ability to feed ourselves and others in the world.

It's about time that our farmers including the excellent Indigenous farmers are celebrated and highlighted for the remarkably considered and compassionate stewardship of their lands.

We are quickly losing our status as the lucky country.

If you think of our great country, which includes all the small and regional towns and villages, you will see the direct impact agriculture has on the wealth and wellness of our communities. As agricultural enterprises expand, so too do the local economies of these small towns. Similarly as agriculture suffers so do these townships. We've lost our manufacturing facilities do we want to lose our agricultural industries as well?

Labour Party Bullies!

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Once upon a time the Labour party was founded on principles of fairness. There is nothing fair about these new vegetation laws and the Palaszczuk government's lack of community consultation! We are deeply saddened by the sly sneaky attack on farmers by this Palaszczuk government.

It's time to wake up and support Aussie farmers!

The Palaszczuk government's approach to Farmers regarding vegetation management has been about assuming the worst and not acknowledging the excellent innovative work farmers are doing to counter climate change and saving the reef... Only 25% of Queensland's country contribute to the Reef and in that there has been little to no mention of the damage caused by residential property development and/or mining. Only agriculture!

Your proposed vegetation management laws will cause severe financial hardship.

We have relatives in Western Queensland who have endured the worst drought in decades and I know that they have held on; held on to the thought of better times ahead. They have borrowed from banks in order to stay on their land and honour their ancestors. Now with a stroke of a pen from an uncaring, unfair political party with what seems to be a personal vendetta against the agricultural industry, their land will be devalued instantly. The debt to land value ratio will be imbalanced and therefore their agribusinesses will be deemed unviable. Banks will be forced to call in the loans and foreclosure for many farmers is inevitable.

Regards,

Scott & Jacqueline Laidler