

**From:**  
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to vegetation management and other legislation amendment bill 2018  
**Date:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 11:57:06 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We provide our submission in rejecting the changes in the vegetation management and other legislation amendment bill 2018 ('The Bill').

As a part of a family business we bought a property in 2003 in a badly run down & degraded condition. We have been gradually improving the property as time and finances has allowed. We have been concentrating more on the better quality pulled country, with fencing, blade ploughing and piping water to increase our carrying capacity, better control grazing pressure & manage our livestock.

We've only recently started on thinning the forest country, using the 'managing thickening vegetation' clearing code. We are trying to increase grass cover & slow water run-off & erosion to restore the country to a more sustainable condition. It is a vicious cycle, on what was once good quality breeder country, the trees have taken over. Through grazing pressure, and a lack of control burning, the trees have pushed the grass out. This again increases grazing pressure, meaning less competition for the trees, creating more & more trees, less & less grass, degrading the environment. The only way to restore the balance, is to thin the thickening vegetation with machinery, control grazing pressure, and undertake regular low intensity burning.

The landscape has been altered by 150 years of agriculture and without intervention, it will never be the same again. Stopping landholders from managing vegetation, will only make environmental degradation worse. Left to itself, the erosion and the invasion of trees will only get worse. This land has the potential to support a profitable grazing business, a diverse habitat, & a sustainable ecosystem.

What is the difference to any other situation, where settlement and human activity has changed the balance of nature? Why can't farmers be allowed to manage these changes? It is possible to carry out a grazing business & still maintain the environment, it just needs proper management! Those of us on the land, know our country & understand what needs doing.

Why can't the government provide assistance with the likes of the old DPI extension officers, who were on the ground, helping farmers on a case by case basis with best management practices? Rather than compliance officers, who treat us as criminals, and are only interested in making life difficult for farmers. The government has difficulty managing the land (National Parks & Forestry) that it does control, through lack of resources and an unwillingness to do control burning & manage feral animals & weeds. As landholders, we are providing a service to the country through managing our land.

We are not talking broadscale land clearing, or environmental degradation or vandalism, we're talking restoration & rejuvenation. 'The Bill' will only restrict us further on what we are able to do, and make it more difficult to manage our land.

As landholders, it is in our best interest to be sustainable and look after our country.

Mitchell & Camille Kemp

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