

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.

As an environment steward I monitor daily the impacts either positive or negative my management has on the land I care for. I am in my local environment every day monitoring and managing at no cost to the wider community. I am certain I have a better grasp on the current situation than someone looking down from a satellite.

My concerns with the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act arise from the erosion of ownership rights on freehold land. My current management has allowed trees to flourish naturally where their placement and density doesn't impact negatively upon grazing yield. This is monitored through grazing charts, photo sites and feed budgets. I fear that if my grazing yield is depleted through regrowth thickening I may no longer have the ability to keep the tree density in check and my environment balanced.

My Grandfather physically bought these trees when he paid to freehold the land. Now am I being told that I no longer own them? It concerns me that soon I will no longer own the grass.

Signed:

C. Rawlin

Address:

Date:

22/03/18.