

Glenda Pickersgill

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21st Mar 2018

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: sdnraidc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee,

**Submission to Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill
2018 ('VMOLA Bill') inquiry**

I thank you for the opportunity to comment and please accept this as a submission to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 ('VMOLA Bill') inquiry.

I am a landholder in the Mary River catchment and conduct a grazing business on my freehold land. About half the property has been thinned (not cleared) in the mid 1990 some of which was classified as vegetation of concern.

I care about protecting our vegetation to reduce land erosion and run off into our river catchments, and for protection of wildlife habitat. I support the passing of this Bill for a number of reasons:

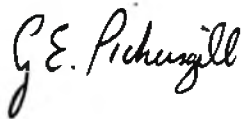
1. It broadens protection of riparian vegetation, especially in the Great Barrier Reef catchments of Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef (*see clauses 133 and 38*) ;
2. It reinstates the application of the riverine protection permit framework to the destruction of vegetation in a watercourse, lake or spring (*see clauses 51 and 52*);

However I am concerned about how it reinstates the protection of high value regrowth on freehold and indigenous land. Improved protected of 'high value regrowth vegetation', being vegetation that has grown back well after being cleared. The Bill creates a broader definition,

including vegetation that hasn't been cleared for 15 years and re-extending regulation to freehold, indigenous land and occupational licences (*see clause 38*). **This is not supported because** the amendments may restrict thinning of the regrowth necessary to maintain the long term viability of a grazing enterprise. Thinning of certain regrowth tree species is necessary to manage for future use of tree species that could provide a sustainable timber return from the property and without some thinning of regrowth, pastures will decline significantly, reducing the animal stocking rate and making the grazing business unviable. Therefore phasing out existing **Area Management Plans** (*see clause 14*) **is not supported either.**

I believe that it is important that any amendments should ensure that grazing businesses can remain viable as there is no compensation being considered for landholders who may significantly impacted or go out of business because of these amendments. It is in the interests of the general public that land is well managed particularly for control of weeds and to financially be able to do this requires some income from the land for the landholder.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'G.E. Pickersgill'.

Glenda Pickersgill