

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 a partner in a beef property we need absolute assurance that a PMAV must not be negotiable unless initiated by the landholder. A particular concern is an overlay of CAT C is visible on our property map overriding a certified map showing sections as CAT C. Despite assurances from DNRM staff, it is of great concern that this may be introduced into the legislation.

Regrowth areas that can't be controlled becomes land that is unsustainable economically which in return contributes to our cash and food flow. We as graziers protect and preserve our land to ensure the maximum benefits. Regrowth areas become totally unproductive with large areas of erosion and soil degradation evident, which leads to very little pasture to provide for the stock or wildlife.

As a landowner we are 100% committed to ensuring our property is managed efficiently , but the proposed changes are potentially devastating for our community. The loss of production, loss of jobs in an area already struggling would be potentially disastrous.

Signed:	Paula Harrison
Address:	
Date:	22/03/2018