

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.

Firstly, I find it very hard to believe that the agricultural industry is having to go back to square one on this issue after so much effort has been invested in trying to explain why it is necessary to control timber & scrub regrowth and encroachment. There is close to unanimous agreement amongst land managers, that the proposed new veg management bill is more about green votes than it is about good land maintenance. This is a very cynical political exercise.

Secondly, there is hypocrisy in the idea that city based politicians are introducing draconian laws to stop us from carrying out necessary land maintenance, when, in the SE corner, which is high in environmental & biodiversity value, there are ever increasing developments being cleared of all native vegetation, to make way for urban sprawl.

There is widespread anger at the State Governments new Veg Bill, to the extent that rural people have had enough. I believe that there will be extreme resistance to the new bill, as it is unfair, regressive, and counterproductive to maintaining land condition. Agriculture will not cop this treatment.

Signed:	John R Milne
Address:	
Date:	21/03/2018