

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Barry Hoare



22nd March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

RE-Vegetation Management Inquiry

My name is Barry Hoare and I have had involvement with the Vegetation Management issue from as far back as 2001 when I represented the Dawson River Valley on the Capricorn/Dawson Vegetation Management Committee. In 2010/11 I was asked to appear via phone link to a Senate Inquiry into Vegetation Management similar to this one. I was also asked to front the Vegetation Management inquiries that were held across the state a couple of years ago. I'm beginning to feel I have an understanding of what the Vegetation Management issue means to many landholders.

In my opinion the Vegetation Management laws should be left as they are as they brought common sense back to an area of property rights that had not only been unfairly reduced but in some cases removed completely.

It should be mandatory that the term 'Regrowth control' is simply the matter of maintenance of a property asset and should not be seen otherwise.

With due respect to all sides of the argument i.e. legislators, environmentalists, suburban people as well as those on the front line of the debate; graziers, pastoralists and farmers in general, I feel there is a clear need to identify what we as a state really are trying to 'protect'. Firstly, the areas within Remnant Vegetation zones and the areas to be protected are some cases, not all, but in a lot of cases some of the most heavily infested parcels of land in the state when it comes to noxious weeds and pest animals. What is to happen to these areas if they can no longer be managed in a timely and cost effective way?? Do they get locked up and forgotten about?? Secondly, quite often the vegetation that is within mapped Remnant or Regrowth Areas do not in any way shape or form represent what the Regional Ecosystem that is supposed to be there.

I put this analogy to you in regard to 'Regrowth control'; if someone in a city or urban area has a vegetable patch at the back of their house block with weeds growing in it. The house owner would remove the unwanted plants or inhibit their growth in such a way that the fruits or vegetables that they plant grow. This is no different to what the landholders of farming and pastoral areas of Queensland endeavour to do when they are controlling regrowth. They are not clearing new

vegetation. They are simply maintaining the productive areas on their properties in the same way as the urban person would on their vege patch.

I also feel that it is a shame that through every political cycle this issue gets manipulated for political gain. During this manipulation thousands of family owned businesses have their operations undermined through stagnation caused by uncertainty.

In finishing I would like to say that the Queensland agricultural sector has been made a political scape goat for the environmental movement for far too long and I feel a return to the previous laws will serve no benefit for the environment, the Queensland people or for future agricultural businesses producing food and fibre for us all.

I have also born witness to the arrogance, antics and statements of our elected members of parliament that clearly indicate that this whole inquiry is a complete waste of time, emotion and financial effort on behalf of all those who have taken part. This is not some form of game for MP's from inner city and urban areas to have a sneering match with.

Further to this I would also add that in my opinion an infamous statement from a number of previous Labor Governments saying and I quote; 'Agriculture continues to grow under a Labor government'. I put to you and all your constituents that agriculture continues to grow in spite of Labor governments and all their efforts to impinge on the resilience of rural and regional communities and the families within them.

Thank you
Barry Hoare