

From:
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: FW: Have say on laws
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 10:09:13 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From:
Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2018 9:43 AM
To: sdnraide@parliament.qld.gov.au
Subject: Have say on laws

Dear Committee

I notice you are called the Natural Resources and AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT Committee. I thus have hope that we will be allowed to clear some of our regrowth to grow more sugar cane and legume crops in rotation.

In 2004 we found that areas around our existing cane blocks were regrowth that was now classed as remnant vegetation and could not be cleared. This was the result of overspray and run off from gun type irrigators. 200 acres could not be cleared. We would have cleared suitable land that could be irrigated to increase our income not all 200 acres.

We were not entitled to any compensation because we are in the Burnett Valley and there was only 28% remnant vegetation left there. With the government classing more regrowth as remnant vegetation the % in the Burnett Valley will have risen. As the 200 acres represented only 26% of our property we were again not entitled to compensation.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. We have sold 100 acres so the 200 acres is now a greater % of our farm. We like other affected farmers in the Burnett Valley still hope we will be compensated as were the farmers in the Mary Valley who were able to use the \$100,000 they received to set up other farming enterprises.

I do not have a copy of the new legislation but would like to be sent one. The last lot of legislation enacted in 1999 we were unaware of until 2004 too late to respond to it. I applied for compensation, a P map and the right to Forest Practice. The P map is the size of a postage stamp for a property of then 975 acres now 875 acres. How can any farmer be expected to manage a property with that sort of mapping.

The legislation is confusing in particular the clearing of fire breaks important for sugar cane farmers. Widths of breaks range from 1.5 meters to twice the height of the tallest tree. Fire fighters want at least 10 meters. We have done no development on our property fearing fines for clearing what we should not. The inadequate mapping which we paid for and the long winded and confusing legislation have made it easy for farmers to be charged for doing what is sensible and reasonable to manage their freehold property.

I spoke to Bruce Saunders about our dilemma. He said one interesting thing "a growing sugar cane crop uses up as much carbon as a forest". I do hope that with the new legislation we will be able to extend our cane farm and manage the balance of our land for grazing. We have been told that our property was once open speargrass country with gum trees.

Yours faithfully