

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework
<p>Would be disastrous for farmers wanting to drought proof properties and to be financially viable.</p> <p>If regulated and monitored correctly this should have very little impact on the environment and biodiversity.</p> <p>It could also save tax payers a lot of money with less drought aid and more viable farms.</p>
2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes
<p>Is a good idea. It saves the Government and the farmer time and money.</p> <p>You must still notify the Department before you commence so with todays satellite technology which passes over every 14-16 days, doing the wrong thing should be picked up easily and dealt with. It would be a great benefit if Department staff could do more on ground inspections and advise farmers.</p>
3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
<p>Including High Value Regrowth is not a good idea. My experience with previous High Value Regrowth is that a lot of invasive species, such as Sally Wattle, Prickly Wattle and other invasive species, are not accurately identified in mapping. The term (original extent) is a very broad term. There is a lot of evidence in the 1800's Brigalow never existed in most of the Brigalow Belt so it is an invasive species. My experience with invasive species, that are native to Australia, can change a land type totally in less than 20 years. I have had areas of High Value Regrowth marked on my property with a locked in PMAV. Is this legal without legislation?</p>
4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.
<p>Increasing Cat R regrowth watercourse vegetation is very sensitive to my property because we are at the top of the water shed. It is very fragile country and needs a lot of grass cover to stop erosion. If trees are let grow, of which most will be invasive species, we will lose our ground cover</p>

and it will become a massive break away. These areas in our higher country are our most productive.

5. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements

No compensation for High Value Regrowth.

This is our most productive land and would just become a home for wild pigs and other vermin and make management of weeds such as rubbervine very difficult.

6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.

We need laws and regulations for the longterm, developed by all stake holders with very little political influence.

I have been on 2 tree clearing committees for the Brigalow in the past. One with Pat Lyons another with Rod Hewitt facilitating.

We spent a lot of time and effort with conservative groups, green groups, local council and other government officials, DEH, scientists, farmers and indigenous people. We did ground inspections, discussions and came up with a wonderful set of guidelines on both occasions, but sadly they were never fully enacted because of political persuasion. On conclusion of both guidelines all participants were happy with the outcome.

I was also a member of the Belyando Suttor Implementation Group and the Burdekin Dry Tropics for a couple of years. Things went very well until Political Persuasion got involved and then it became a total waste of money and nothing was achieved.

I think the thinning and self assessable codes has been extremely good for the land and us financially because of the extra ground cover it promotes which holds the moisture in the soil especially storm rain. It should be monitored for people doing it wrong but not changed.

I worked on this property, that I now own, in 1977. I bought it in 1998. It was a massive shock to see how thick the vegetation had become in 21 years. I am convinced there is more trees in Queensland now than when white man came. There should be more advice obtained from creditable scientists and on the ground stakeholders with experience.

I did 6 years collecting water samples for Burdekin Dry Tropics through James Cook University which I thought would be a invaluable for the research into the Great Barrier Reef and thought it would go on indefinitely and then the government cut the funding.

I have no doubt some chemical and man made fertilisers have an effect on the Great Barrier Reef

But I also think Natural Sediment from the Upper Catchment that flows out onto the reef in floods over thousands of years is how the reef was created and sustained. I think the large dams like Burdekin Falls and others have acted like large filters, blocking nutrients from getting to the reefs so it can thrive. All government money for protecting the reef should be used to develop a man made way of making the reef flourish.

There needs to be more staff educated for on ground inspection of Properties and detection of radicals in the industries. The satellite mapping detection system used by government is not remotely accurate.

7. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration

New threatened species is a very delicate situation to deal with. There needs a lot of study to find out why a species is threatened not a knee jerk reaction from the politicians.

Tree thickening has been a big threat to a lot of small species because of the lack of grass and ground cover. There biggest threats are introduced feral animals cats, rabbits and foxes not vegetation management.

As previously said, I have been part of tree clearing committees and they made sensible guidelines agreed by all parties yet were not used, we need rules that are achievable and not continually changing.

The Government need to be praising our farmers for producing our food not continually degrading them which is not only detrimental to their but their families well being and mental health.

Signed:	<i>SCRBennett</i>
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