

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.

Describe the impacts the changes will make to stall agriculture, discourage investment, and increase costs and time to manage vegetation.

I object to the new proposed changes to the Vegetation Management act for the following reasons

1. While we understand the community perception that our climate is currently negatively affected by tree clearing, it is un-fair and unbiased to apply these laws to affect agriculture only. The proposed legislation seriously flawed and reads as putting a hand brake on QLD agricultural development while allowing urban development clearing and Mining development clearing continue.
2. The proposed legislation reads that it is designed to prevent almost all vegetation clearing for agricultural purposes and where possible promote extra growth. People who manage the land know that when cleared land is not continually managed it slowly but surely regenerates, even lightly timbered areas expand and increase in population. This proposed legislation appears to leave out any reference to the extra growth that has occurred since farmed agriculture started in Australia. We have evidence to show that there has been around a 20% increase of woody vegetation over the past 70 years at Lorraine. This will be typical in many ecosystems. We need certainty that we can use economical methods to maintain a healthy woody vegetation density and not be bound up by red tape and tree police, interpreting laws to suit the current economic line of preference deals.
3. The actual density of woody vegetation must be calculated and an acceptable level agreed on to bring about an acceptable target of vegetation for every area of the state. Only then can we have a fair system by which we can all work together to achieve.
4. There are many areas of Southern, Central, Eastern and North Eastern QLD which have been extensively cleared in prior years to allow for agricultural production, clearing of these areas was encouraged to allow for increase both cropping and beef production. In areas where thick very low production eucalypt and acacia scrubs were cleared improved pastures were established which increased production of beef, previous to clearing 1AE (Adult Equivalent) was grazed on 35Ha, this increased to 1AE to 7Ha on

cleared land with improved pastures. Or, timbered scrub producing 4.2kg of beef /Ha/ year, compared to cleared land with improved pastures producing 28.5kg/beef/Ha/year. The economic benefit is obvious, the jobs created is obvious. Again compare the same Ha of scrub producing 4.2kg of beef compared to 4.4 tonnes of grain (rain grown) or 8 tonnes of grain (irrigation grown). The jobs created are obvious and the economic benefit is again obvious.

5. The North and West of Queensland has done very little clearing as a percentage of the total by comparison to other areas of the state. There should be consideration given to the north and North west areas to allow for High Value agriculture and Irrigated Ag for projects which allow for businesses to build fodder buffers into they're operating systems that will reduce the impacts of Droughts and dry spells on they're operations and nearby properties as well.

Signed:	Michael D Crisp
Address:	
Date:	21/03/2018