

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.

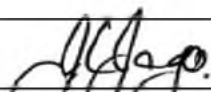
Describe the impacts the changes will make to stall agriculture, discourage investment, and increase costs and time to manage vegetation.

We believe that these new rules and regulation will impact on the viability of our farm business and our survival. For over 50 years/two generations our family have owned and managed this property. Over the years we have been selective on how we have cleared the property enabling us to run a viable mixed farming - cropping and cattle - operation throughout.

In the cropping areas we wanted to be able to 'square up' paddocks to make them easier to navigate for operational purposes.

With the current code of self-assessable we've been able to manage problem areas effectively and sustainably. A lot of the Cat B areas were once open timber country (Flood Coolabah) that you could see through. Today it is over-grown with black wattle & other woody weeds that are choking out everything else and all grasses. We have started a program of controlling these weeds and it will be an ongoing project. If not, the land will be choked out with these woody weeds. As farmers we need to be able to have tools easily available to us to control these pest trees. We must be able to continue to self-regulate these areas to control erosion and to stop soil run off. We can have Agricultural production and environment co-exist. When you go to Brisbane and other metropolitan areas they don't seem to have any problems pushing over vast areas of trees for housing or roads, and that's not putting any food on tables. They say we are environmental vandals, we would suggest that you take an aerial view of our paddocks then take a aerial view of any city and you tell us which one looks healthier. I think that the government needs to look at all the science reports and give the correct response to those reports.

Signed:



Address:

Date:

21/03/2018