

From: [d](#)
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: SDNRAIDC Committee - Vegetation Management submission
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 11:35:14 AM

Committee Members,

We are writing to voice our concerns with the Queensland Governments' proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Laws, in particular the area regarding the management of Mulga, as this relates directly to the viability of our property and cattle business.

The proposed Bill will limit our ability to manage the Mulga regrowth, and hamper using it as drought fodder. Mulga is an unusual species, which studies have proven, when left unattended will thicken to the point that all other species of native and introduced grasses and ground covers are unable to grow. This will further deplete the soil, affect the biodiversity of both fauna and flora, and affect the carrying capacity of 40% of our property.

In drought years, we use the Mulga as stock fodder to keep our cattle alive. It is a very important part of our Drought Management Plan, and we have absolutely no interest in broadscale clearing of this valuable resource. But we need to be able to thin and manage as needed, to ensure a healthy variety of plant species, without extensive paperwork, both in Good and Drought seasons. The proposed Legislation will negatively impact our ability to efficiently manage our property and thereby, our business.

Aside from the detrimental effects on our business, I fear the 2018 Bill will devastate further, the already struggling communities of rural and regional Queensland. As the food and fibre producers can no longer manage their enterprises in the most efficient, productive, and sustainable way, their surrounding communities will feel the pinch also. This bill if implemented, will not only cause grief to farming families, but all the families that provide goods and services in these regional towns. Further down the track, effects will be felt in land values, property sales, food and fibre prices, and unemployment.

There are proven alternatives to this type of Vegetation Management assault. The vegetation and diversity of individual regions within Queensland are so varied and specialised, that the use of a Producer-driven, Regional and Self-Assessable system, based on science instead of emotion is necessary. And a system that will stand the test of time, instead of changing the goalposts every election, would also strengthen the Agricultural Sector, so that Queensland producers can get on with doing their best in their given areas.

Please seriously consider your decision on this matter. It is not really about saving trees, but I believe it is about encouraging diversity so that we can create a healthy Natural environment. Science (and indeed our experience here on Belgaum over the last 18 years)

has shown that the Mulga needs management to enable that diversity.

Thank you for your time.

Sue and Craig Hurford (and our three daughters who all want to be farmers - at this stage...)