

From: [v](#)
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Strengthen and pass the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 7:58:46 AM

David Astley

Dear State Development, Natural Resources & Agricultural Industry Development Committee

As part of a family of multi generational farmers, I have been disappointed at the use of outdated laws, extrapolated from those in a different hemisphere, to tame and exploit some of the oldest and least fertile countryside in the world.

We are constantly discovering that our laws have done more harm than good to our land in the long term, and recent experiments to work with the land instead of against it, and to learn from the indigenous caretakers are revealing just how inappropriate our 'modern' practices have been.

Consequently, I would like to express my support for the passing of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, although I wish to see some amendments to the Bill first.

I strongly endorse the Bill in seeking to scrap high value agriculture as a relevant clearing purpose, to protect high conservation value regrowing woodlands, to scrap the thinning code, to extend Reef riparian areas, and to terminate current Area Management Plans. With so much bushland already destroyed, it makes little sense to continue this foolish 'more clearing is better' mentality.

I strongly endorse amendments to the Bill to totally remove 'managing thickened vegetation' provisions, to guarantee no new self-assessable code for thinning or new Area Management Plans where possible in the future.

I am disappointed that the government is not proposing to substantially tighten up fodder harvesting provisions, including major restrictions and tying any clearing to official drought declaration.

I respectfully ask that the Committee examine options for recommending changes to the Bill and codes accordingly, and to ensure that the above reforms are fully translated into practice.

Even with these reforms, I believe there will be more work to be done in bringing about an end to remnant clearing in Queensland, to better protect threatened species including koalas and their habitats, and to comprehensively protect native woodlands.

Yours Sincerely,

David Astley

