

SUBMISSION

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

We have been in the grazing / farming industry since 1956 in North West Queensland. We have been able to, through good pasture management, extend our holdings in to Southern Queensland.

The submission to amend the current bill could potentially inhibit our ability to sustain our holdings and reduce our capacity to provide for our families.

Graziers and farmers, alike, are environmentalists who need to keep their pastures productive. They are constantly monitoring their land and pastures to check conditions. So that they may improve strategies to maintain a good, healthy, productive enterprise.

This productive enterprise is Food Production. For this enterprise to be viable, graziers/farmers need to be able to improve their pasture production with an array of techniques. One being the ability to thin and pull tree/ regrowth that is encroaching or chocking out the high production value pasture grasses.

From a case study conducted by the Desert Channels Queensland, from 2104/15; Improving Pasture Productivity following Gidgee Thinning; DCQ set out to determine the best technique to assist landholders with improving productivity of their pastures by controlling Gidgee thickening and encroachment. Mechanical clearing was very effective in dealing with encroachment. The trial concluded that with appropriate control method and prolonged pasture management it is possible to improve pasture condition of land which has been degraded by encroachment and thickening. This trail also concluded that it met with the vegetation Management Codes as they stand today. So, this is just one example of how it is possible to improve pasture and timber density as the current laws stand.

Once land is locked up, you take away the landholders ability to look after and maintain the land. This then reduces its viability for production, which then reduces the viability of the enterprise. This has a knock on affect to the small towns and shires, where the enterprise can no longer afford to "shop local". Which in turn reduces to jobs/ infrastructure of small communities, then puts pressure on larger towns and cities to provide more jobs/infrastructure and could in turn add pressure to the Government to provide care and wellbeing.

Pastoral enterprises require different strategies to maintain and improve vegetation and land areas throughout Queensland. These new submissions to amend the legislation could directly impact on the sustainability of both land resource and Pastoral enterprise.