

The existing Vegetation Management laws are already overcomplicated requiring farmers to engage advisors ( agronomists) to decipher what we can and cannot do on our properties. These amendments further complicate the situation for the farmer and add further costs to the business.

The removal of HVA and IHVA is an unnecessary amendment given that it will not result in any tangible benefit to the environment. There are still vigorous regulations in place before country can be opened up. We had a block on our property we wanted to develop as HVA but could not proceed because it contained a remnant water course. This is absolutely ridiculous but that nonsensical limitation prevented us going ahead without the need of this current reversal.

The removal of self assessable codes is a politically motivated move which is unfair and unnecessary. I am unaware of any substantive reason being given for its removal. What most people do not understand is that most of this country which has been locked up by the VMA is becoming too thick which causes its own set of land degradation issues. The ground cover is greatly reduced resulting in erosion and it becomes a place for noxious weeds to flourish as well as a haven for feral pests.

We have country that was once open forest country that is now almost impossible to ride a horse through. The fact that it is untouchable is not returning it to its remnant state but turning into a completely different ecosystem to what it was 100 years ago.

Where is the common sense in all this political manoeuvring? Has anyone who has written this legislation actually come out to look at the vegetation in the paddocks of Queensland especially north of Gympie?

This constant variation of the legislation is frustrating beyond belief. There must be some common sense and reasonableness in the process. Why must we all be dragged down to the lowest common denominator? There must be penalties in place for those who contravene but it is grossly unfair for the majority to be saddled with harsh and unworkable laws.

We have 85000 acres of forest country. We will not ever clear vast tracts of land as we appreciate the value of our timber. However we must be able to

put in firebreaks, fence lines and dams and undertake some thinning. Why if we follow a sound code of practice (which has been done here for over 100 years) should we have to follow a torturous, time consuming and unfair paper trail to satisfy green voters in Brisbane?

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