

SUBMISSION

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

<p>1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework</p>
<p>High value agriculture as the name suggests is of very high value to northern producers. The opportunity to use a small area of our properties in an intensive manner can add great diversification to a rural business. We live in a highly variable climate, so the opportunity for a small area of high value agriculture has the potential to</p> <p>Primary producers know their livelihood comes from managing well their soil resource and it is in their best interest to manage it so that it builds soil carbon as well as produce a crop. If northern producers were unable to clear small areas of their properties for high value ag, there would be a significant loss in business resilience, jobs in the north and lost opportunities for growing communities.</p> <p>We understand in the Pentland area near us there is a significant development pending that could bring 500 jobs to our region. The plan is to clear the trees and grow sugar cane to produce ethanol as a renewable energy source. This environmentally friendly project would be scuttled if High Value Agriculture was removed from the Vegetation Management Framework. This would leave our community poorer as a result.</p>
<p>2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes</p>
<p>Self-Assessable Codes are a win-win. They enable farmers the chance to get on with managing their natural resources without lengthy delays through the department but also cut down the staffing in the department to manage these fairly straightforward matters.</p> <p>Again it is in the farmer's interests not to clear country that is not suitable and susceptible to degradation as this reduces the area where pasture can grow and feed livestock.</p>
<p>3. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements</p>
<p>Where new rules are brought in at a cost to the landowner to comply, then surely compensation to the farmer is a reasonable action.</p>
<p>4. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration</p>
<p>Our family have owned and managed our property "Wambiana" since 1912. We see ourselves as custodians of the land for future generations and don't use practices that will impede its capacity to grow grass and create a livelihood.</p> <p>The constant altering of these rules around vegetation management are detrimental to long term sustainability as it is distracting from the job at hand to manage the land.</p>

Signed:	Michael Lyons
Address:	
Date:	20/3/2018