

Committee Secretary
 State Development, Natural
 Resources and Agricultural
 Industry Development
 Committee
 Parliament House
 George Street
 Brisbane Qld 4000

Eliza Keeley

To: The State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee,

If you do not wish to read my personal submission all I ask you to read is my dot points on pages 3 & 4 below which outlines the effects this will have on people, animals and the land we live in! I urge you to read the entirety of my submission, however if you must only read anything read my dot points.



I am the 25year old female (**photo to the left**), and my partners family (**my partner is also pictured in this photo**) have been graziers for nearly 100 years. I moved out to the Mulga Lands (their 83000acres property) 5 months ago and was astounded at the battle they face every day just to keep cattle alive complying with the OLD legislations, let alone the new ones released on March 8th 2018. I

feel my view on the matter (as small as it is comparatively to life long graziers, scientists and many other people on the land) might enlighten you. If I can see the negative effects this will have with such short time living here, you should be able to also. If I know this much, I cant begin to imagine what some graziers have with hundreds yeas of experience and knowledge! **LISTEN TO THESE PEOPLE!** This battle of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 is **suffocating, threatening lives of animal and people and destroying an industry as old as Australia, and an amazing country and environment. It is not saving the environment!**

Since the release of these new laws my partner's family (**photo to the right of my partners father, and the South West Landcare Representative**) have done everything in their power to try and **educate those that are unaware and also get their fellow farmers to speak up to the Labour Government**, all while trying to keep their 2000head of cattle alive, manage a 83000acres property, and



keep their livelihood afloat (see photo below of Scott and the Mulga educational sign out the front of their property Halton. Scott and Adma Sargood worked together with their local district's supporters, businesses and local NRM to try and educate people).



A lot of the people they are talking to didn't even know you COULD write in a submission to oppose the new legislation. How shocking is that, they didn't even know they could stand up for what they believe in and their **livelihood that is being completely destroyed in front to their eyes, they just thought they had to sit listen and watch with their hands tied.**

This isn't due to ignorance or naivety if you are thinking, it is because they are bloody hard workers and some don't have the

luxuries to sit behind a computer (due to time restrictions, as they are out all day and even sometimes night working), or even have internet reception at their place, or there are many farmers still who are don't know how to use a computer. These days are still very much present, so please be aware of this. And **I deeply stress you to understand** if you are rolling your eyes at me banging on about the "poor old farmers who don't know how to use a submission or computer" and "get with the times and new technologies", how many of you fix your own tyre confidently, how many of you know how to drive heavy duty machinery, how many of you know all your native trees in your area and how they change in different seasons and how they need to be treated, **how many of you spend more time with animals then humans and have to learn the psychology behind the workings with animals, threatening your life** being kicked, motor bike accidents, even wild animal bites etc. I would say very few members of the Labour Government, if any at all; **so, why are they trying to tell the farmers how to do their job?** A computer model is NEVER and I repeat NEVER going to be able to muster cattle, hand feed calves when they are sick, provide food and water for them (and all the native wildlife in the eco system) and manage the land, so why is the Labour Government basing all their findings off this and not from the people whom are doing all this work.

What deeply saddens me, is that no one seems to care what happens to the farmers, both on a daily basis (their running's of a property) and their future. They are happy to eat fresh produce (steak, bread, bacon, egg etc.), and not even know where some of it comes from; heard of the saying, you are what you eat, well all this research done on preservatives over the last 15years and all these new organic produce out, you will not be able to get a single fresh bit of produce if this legislation goes through in the future, I can guarantee you that. Something Australia prides itself in! "Fresh produce" will be littered with preservative. **Australia's food will have to be imported.** The one industry Australia succeeds nearly better then any other country in, the one industry that was present from the beginning of time, and that they do bloody well, **you are about to destroy.** And what for? The trees; the carbon; to not destroy the Great Barrier Reef. Well please read my submissions points below, I know you don't have all day to read this so I have tried to summarise what requires an entire report to explain to you.

Brief Summary of the impact this legislation will have!

**Please note these impacts are not limited to*

Livestock

- Cattle eat grass and certain fodder trees.
- Mulga is a fodder tree for cattle – you will starve cattle.
- **Mulga requires management and has been managed for over 100 years** (by fire traditionally from the native Australian Aboriginals, in which continued through the generations and years with different techniques, with similar outcomes, sometimes even better).
- **Mulga is much like a weed, it will choke out all the other species** of plants, trees and grasses that were going to grow in that area any way. This means the mulga tree will compete with other native natural resources **and inturn completely kill off the eco systems** (native animals: Kangaroos, Wild Pigs, Birds, Insects and any animal you can imagine) by killing their native **source of food**.

Legislation

- The way the **legislation is designed** to determine peoples land (using maps from computer models and satellites) **can be completely and utterly incorrect**; and **only field observations** can determine an environment and eco system (*much like when you visit a doctor and you don't have a one size fits all antibiotic*). **Hence why they had the self-assessing code for fodder laws, AND SHOULD KEEP IT**, they were trusting in the farmers knowledge and experience, as they have been doing this for hundreds of years (*like we trust in doctors*). Why change this now?

Farmers

- **The native animals living in such environments** that the people are trying to protect **would not be there if it wasn't for the farmers**.
 - Farmers provide the water for the animals (bores, troughs, dams, turkeys nest etc.) and also manage these over grown trees (where naturally possible) and keep their particular food source (grasses etc.) alive, by allowing room to grow. Grass does not grow with thickening Mulga, is cannot compete and also the rain does even reach the ground, giving it no opportunity at all to try (as Mulga coverage of the leaves is too thick). **Without the farmers managing their land the animals will die**. There wouldn't be a watering point for the animals within hundreds of km's then, and it is imporrisble to manage like a national park, stop treating it like one and learn your native trees like these farmers have had to do.
- **The protection of our land, and environment is top priority for farmers** (alongside keeping their cattle alive), as without the natural land there would be no agricultural industry. They are aware of this, they have been studying their environments and eco systems for years, why would they want to do something to harm it. Why are they not trusted?

People

- I wont even want to begin to fathom/explain to you about the heartbreak and mental and physical damage this will do to thousands of people in the industry. An industry that already imposes so many risks due to other impacting factors. **The farmers** will not only struggle daily to work with the legislation, **but their children, their friends, their extended family** and people like me (a partner to a grazier, and a daughter of a cotton farmers)

watch the ones they love and care about hard work go to waste, and their bodies go down with it.

- **Sleepless nights, depression, exhaustion, and I would even go to far to say suicide is what you are going to impose on these people.**

Animal Welfare

- Save the Koalas' – yes I agree. But majority of the Koalas do not live in these areas this legislation is focusing on. They live on the southeast coast of Queensland in which has already turned into a cement sea. The Koala Foundation believes there are 1000 koalas in the Brisbane district alone compared with 30,000 in 1988. Who's killing the Koalas now? Probably members of the Labour Government living. Koala Foundation CEO Deborah Tabart OAM even stated "urban development was a major threat to koalas."
URBAN DEVELOPMENT! NOT AGRICULTURE!
- Animal Cruelty – Firstly, **the cattle will starve** to death **without the help of farmers** feeding them these fodder trees (as I mention above), or worse they **WILL HAVE TO BE KILLED** as they are sick (in which give farmers heartbreak and nightmares every time they have to do this). **Which member of the Labour Government wants to do that;** *a) watch starving animals become slowly too weak to even move or get up, and not do anything to help them at all, as their hands are tied to tree restrictions (a natural source of food and medicine for these animals); or, put them out of their misery using their own bear hands (I imagine non of them! Just like farmers hate doing it as well. This is why they do EVERYTHING in their power to keep them alive).* Farmers will be forced to leave then; the native Wild life will die, as the farmers are not there to provide food and water for them. How is this not black and white?

Additional Issues Impacting the Legislation

- **The Great Barrier Reef** is threatened! I respect this, however why is this being imposed on **farmers** when most of them **live on the opposite side of the Great Dividing Range, and all their water runs West?** Some people **living 500km+ away** from this effected area.
- **Carbon Scheme programs** have been discriminating against large vegetation area's of thinning country, which turns out these Carbon Credits (everyone thinks is a great idea) are being **bought by overseas investors instead of people who love and care about their land** and would consider all the possibilities of what they are doing by locking up the trees for X amount of years. This **impacts the district both on a personal and economical level**. People not having a "resident" within hundreds of km's, therefor roads and state developments not being prioritised; and the economy is being impacted as surrounding properties cannot bear the burden any more so they are selling. **This is a huge flaw in the scheme they did not predict!** We are telling you first hand what to predict in these submissions, if this legislation goes through, **PLEASE don't make the same mistake they did!**
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001 says **"88% of Queenslanders** (which is more then 8 in 10) **live within 50kms of the coastline"** this means that majority of Queensland (the carbon producing individuals) are living on the coast and in major cities etc. **They are not restricted in any way, and continue producing their Carbon**, the biggest producers of it (as well as the mining industries, I am not forgetting about them) while the farmers whom are the Carbon Sinks naturally, are punished and restricted to hold even more then they already are. How is this fair? **Go to the source of the issue.**

That was my attempt to briefly educate you on the small amount I know of how these legislations are going to affect Queensland.

The **heartbreak** I feel every waking moment to see my partners' families' hard work going to waste is unfathomable. To see their every waking moment (sleepless nights) since the release of these new legislations working at trying to get them to lessen, or at the best lift these extremely strict legislations is more than I imagine the Labour Government put thought into these laws (and I know they didn't as it has all been designed by a computer model). **It is near impossible to keep cattle alive in this drought barren country but they do and they work bloody hard to do it, why make it even harder for them.**

I am sure there are many submissions stressing the same views, please read them all with your most compassionate of views as the lives of thousands of people and millions of animals lie in your hands (in these submissions) and your final decision. Please be careful what you do to the future of this state, we love the country this legislation threatens to destroy. **Don't let this legislation pass.**

Kindest Regards,
Eliza Keeley