

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural
Resources and Agricultural
Industry Development
Committee

Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Mitchell Sargood

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

I am writing to you today not as a third generation farmer, not as a resident of the mulga lands (even though I am both of the former mentioned); but as an Australian citizen (*photo to the right*) with a deep concern regarding the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the negative effect it will have.



I have always been taught to look at all situations from everyone's side and look at all the possibilities and problems that could occur in the future, before making a decision. I feel that the Labour Government has not done this in implementing these new laws, and this can be confirmed for you simply by watching the SDNRAIDC – Public Briefing, Vegetation Management and Other Legislations Committee Broadcast, 45:43 – 45:47 where in actual fact the Labour Government clearly states that “no” research has been done on the implications it may have; in fact they state “no” when a committee member questions the department “has the department undertaken any modelling in relation to the proposed legislation effects it might have on the agricultural development of the state”, and again the department stated “No”, that they were NOT going to proceed with any such research. From my understanding, if you are not willing to do any research for now, or for the future (for the wellbeing for a state and country) you should not have the power to change a law.

In their views, the new legislations are not going to make a negative impact to the Mulga lands, or Queensland at all. I am stressing to everyone that these laws

and this legislation IS going to have a significant impact on Mulga Lands Farmers; not to mention the collateral damage on a broad scale (ranging from the welfare of native animals, through to the erosion and care of the environment) that I assure you could NOT be possible to predict by any computer model the Labour Government is using. Get away from the computers and start using common sense, this research should be carried out instead by field research; and I think it would be extremely beneficial to speak to those people who have lived there their entire life and actually know first hand what happens there in the environment they live in. I feel like they have forgotten that not only do farmers take care of their livestock but also provide for the native wildlife in their area's. It seems everyone is too concerned about the tree's, they have forgotten that farmers supply water to millions and millions of acres for these native animals. Without the tree management, there is no farmers, and without the farmers, there is no water. Tell me what your computer model predicts that to end up like? I'll tell you, multi-million acre wasteland, and choked out eco systems from mismanaged Mulga.

A fair example for me to explain how the graziers are feeling at the moment is if you imagine that the farmers of Queensland were the ones in charge (not the Labour government) and farmers had the power to change the laws *on not just the state*, but on the city folk as well. They bring out a legislation claiming to "Control Carbon Emissions, and keep the Great Barrier Reef clean" and they ban everyone who lives within 30kms of their work in metropolitan areas, from driving a car; it is public transport only! No excuses! Not even to leave the city, to see your family, seek medical attention, or even buy your groceries, not for anything (however, you can use public transport for all of this). Although if you would like to apply to drive your car, it is \$13,000; and your application may not be approved, nor is there a timeline on when you will receive the application back, it could be months. Then the Farmers of Queensland (in charge) say blatantly "the department HASN'T undertaken any modelling or research in relation to the proposed legislation on the effects it might have on the metropolitan businesses and people of the state". It is illogical, irrational, unthought out and down right disrespectful as the farmers wouldn't be affected and know nothing about living in a metropolitan area. Surely you can see that this makes peoples lives near impossible to live.

I give credit to the labour government keeping their loyalties to broad scale clearing and the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, and I understand that some things do need restrictions, and monitoring. However, what I am struggling to understand is why are we being connected to the Great Barrier Reef and broad scale clearing when we live on the opposite side of the Great Dividing Range, and all our water runs West? Also, as cited in Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001 "88% of Queenslanders (which is more then 8 in 10) lives within 50kms of the coastline". I am aware these statistics were taken in 2001, however I would be very surprised if that is not the same if not more now. Meaning at least 8 in 10 people have got absolutely no idea of our climate where we live or what we do and they are the people making the laws.

Labour thinks by keeping the fodder laws they have given all the farmers what they need to feed their cattle, as I was saying before the difference is not all land is what their computer models and satellites are saying they are. A lot of farmers use thinning to feed cattle. The only way to find this out again is through observation and experience (which was given to farmers in the self-assessment code; which wasn't easy, time consuming, and financially burdening however was doable).

My last note to you is I want the Labour Government to know that you have the entire of Central Queensland sitting here shaking their heads saying these people have got no idea what they are destroying. If they would only come out and have a look with their own eyes and give each farmer a week (even just 1-day) to show them how their property works and what actions are required to maintain and sustain their land. Everyone is just happy to sit in their office and complain and take videos of broad scale clearing which have got absolutely nothing to do with our thinning or fodder and making us out to be the bad guys when we are actually the people absorbing all the carbon, for the 88% of people telling us that we are doing it all wrong.

I need you to know that if these laws go through you are going to destroy a huge part of Queensland. It won't happen tomorrow, and it won't happen the next day but it will be the end for the Mulga Lands, as well as the native wildlife, all the farmers, towns, businesses and people that go with it. This is the last leg, to be honest this is why everyone is making so much noise! This is not a decision of a vegetation management; this is a decision of people's and animals lives.

Kind Regards,
Mitchell Sargood.