

## SUBMISSION

I provide my submission on rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 ("the Bill").

This constant change in legislation severely impacts on the ability of farm managers to plan and implement effective long-term property and business management decisions. Ecological processes work in much longer timeframes and can be severely compromised when mismatching regulations are enforced. Farmers have long called for certainty with the vegetation management regulatory framework. I am totally opposed to continued uncertainty and attacks on the viability of myself, the long-term sustainability of my business as well as attacks on fellow farmers.

The impacts of the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act include;

- The purpose for High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture will be removed.
- Extends Category B areas (remnant vegetation) and Category C (regrowth vegetation) to freehold land, and indigenous freehold land. Additional 862 000ha High Value Regrowth and water course buffers to all reef catchment, Burnett Mary, Fitzroy, Eastern Cape York.
- Thinning will require Development Application to be lodged for approval.
- The purpose for High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture will be removed.

Describe the impacts the changes will make to stall agriculture, discourage investment, and increase costs and time to manage vegetation.

**Not being able thin 4.9.11, 4.9.16, 4.3.20 and 4.3.8 ecosystems in Mitchell Grass Downs Region.**

Immature gidyea thickening in these ecosystems in some areas of the Mitchell Grass Downs is a serious problem as it has become so thick it is now a monoculture of immature gidyea and seriously threatening the biodiversity of vegetation and animal life in the Gidyea Woodland ecosystems.

Counts of immature trees in these ecosystems on this property are as high as 6250 immature trees per hectare. If not able to manage this problem all 4.9.11 and 4.9.16 areas will become a worthless monoculture of immature gidyea, as mature gidyea, sandalwood, false sandalwood, boonaroo have died and ground bushes, herbages and grasses no longer exist. It is paramount that a balance is struck to maintain a healthy biodiversity in the region.

With the density of immature trees in 4.9.11 and 4.9.16 and not been able to manage the problem it effects the productivity of the property as stock cannot use these areas so therefore decreases the carrying capacity and devalues the valuation of the property. I believe the value of lost production due to reduction of carrying capacity on this property is \$46,400.00 per year.



Shed Pad 4.9.16 100% without thickening

Mature gidyea -165 trees per ha



Horseshoe- 4.9.16 100% with thickening  
Live mature 15 per ha.

Immature gidyea 5425 per ha. Dead mature 162 per ha.



Bore Paddock- 4.9.16 with thickening.

Immature gidyea 6250 per ha. Dead mature 300 per ha. Live mature 1

I have measured and marked with a gps. 5 different sites around the property where immature thickening is becoming a problem. The average count of immature gidyea from those sites is 4540 per ha.

**Not able to thin 4.3.20 and 4.3.8 ecosystems**

Immature gidyea thickening and encroachment in 4.3.20 and 4.3.8. ecosystems along watercourses is causing problems as thickening of immature gidyea along the creeks is killing coolabah, dogwood, blue bush, lignum and sandalwood and therefore once again upsetting the balance of the ecosystem. Because no grasses or herbages grow where immature gidyea is thick the soil is left bare so erosion and silting becomes a serious problem. 35 years ago the watercourses here were reasonably open with coolabah, dogwood the odd mature gidyea scattered along the banks with bluebush, lignum and grasses growing along the channels, now in places immature gidyea is taking over and chocking the other species out.

In some areas of 4.3.20 immature gidyea is encroaching on open country rather than a thickening of existing gidyea.



Natural Open Creek



Thickening of immature gidyea along creek





Encroachment of immature gidyea in 4.3.20 ecosystem near a water coarse

### Guide Lines for Thinning

Gidyea Woodlands in Mitchell Grass Downs should have different guide lines for the management of it because of the evasive nature of this plant and how it is seriously damaging the biodiversity of the ecosystems. In this low rain fall area the criteria that an immature tree must be 2 metres in height before it can be counted is too high because where seedlings are thick it can take 35 to 40 years to reach that height.

Limiting the area per lot that can be treated to 400ha is too restrictive.

Signed:	David Morton Signature page attached separately
Address:	
Date:	21 March 2018

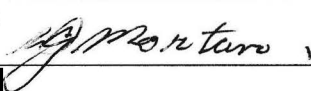



Encroachment of immature gidyea in 4.3.20 ecosystem near a water coarse

### Guide Lines for Thinning

Gidyea Woodlands in Mitchell Grass Downs should have different guide lines for the management of it because of the evasive nature of this plant and how it is seriously damaging the biodiversity of the ecosystems. In this low rain fall area the criteria that an immature tree must be 2 metres in height before it can be counted is too high because where seedlings are thick it can take 35 to 40 years to reach that height.

Limiting the area per lot that can be treated to 400ha is too restrictive.

Signed:	David Morton 
Address:	
Date:	21 March 2018