

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.

Our family have owned 'Lyndon' since the 1890's. The country has been well managed for four generations and is a productive sheep and cattle enterprise.

The frequent change of political party governing the state, sees the vegetation legislation change each time. As a result, this change gives us as producers, uncertainty, as to working within the guidelines and our futures.

As farmers, we love the land upon which we live and obtain a living. We manage the land, vegetation and stock effectively. The ecosystems existing on our farms are healthy and consist of a vast array of flora and fauna. New vegetation legislation will again restrict our management of the land.

The new vegetation guidelines will alter considerably our grasslands. They will become void of grass and native herbages and see the increase of woods weeds and pest species.

We need the ability to mechanically clear the land (two dozers with a chain) which will keep the undergrowth down and see a balance of grass and trees.

Signed:	Scott Counsell
Address:	
Date:	21.3.18