

Albany Downs

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Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

It is almost, Mother's Day 2018, a day of significant importance, not for me as a mother, wife, director, property owner and business manager, but one who is punching away in front of a computer writing a submission on the abovementioned. Why, because I care, I care that I see the grim face of my husband and our neighbours as our landholder rights are gradually being eroded away.

Together with my husband we live by our vision of "Healthy plants, healthy soils, healthy animals and healthy people" and through this vision our properties are managed sustainable with the focus for future generations. On our properties we carefully managed rotational grazing practices and the use of resting of land for native pasture regeneration and this practice is well documented. We have a duty of care to our environment, and our motto is 'look after and land and the land will look after you'



"Look after the land and the land will look after you"

I write this submission on behalf of my husband Don and our son Joseph, on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as we see the public has not had the opportunity to review the proposed legislation as of yet. As it stands the current bill on **regrowth control** measure is flawed. Incremental legislation is not the way forward for sustainable food and fibre production. The fear that regrowth control measures would be introduced following previous legislation has seen an increase in regrowth control. This is due to the fact that landholders were fearful that regrowth control may be taken away from them in the future. (Despite previous State Government Ministers guarantee that regrowth would not be touched) These fears were well founded. This over legislation has a large impact on landholders where fear does not achieve the desired outcome it just destroys the beautiful natural resource we have.

As well educated informed and articulate land owners we value this natural resource. Our trees are an essential part of the ecosystem; it is a refuge for our cattle, a cover against the cold in winter and gives shade in the summer. Trees are an interictal part of our wild life and more importantly trees are great soil conditioners. Science has already proven that the new trees (regrowth) are far better for sequestering carbon than the old trees and therefore the continuation of good management of the new trees (regrowth management) must occur for this to happen. It is also proven that Australia has more timber now than when it was first settled. There are 136 million ha mapped regional ecosystems in Queensland and of this 102 million ha is classed as Remnant – so with these figures one would say that 75% of mapped regional ecosystems are already protected.



(a)

December 2006

Same Paddock December 2007

(a)

Our Property

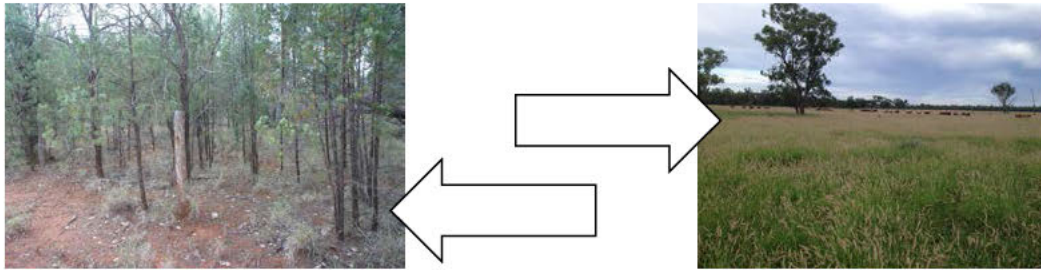
On our property we have proven records to show that uncontrolled regrowth has a highly undesirable outcome. This unmanaged monoculture does not allow the grass to grow under the canopy, and when there is a rainfall event the water runs off. (a) It does not slow the water down only grass slows and filters the water run off. Good grass species need to have a quality of life. The ecological indicators are the biological state, water cycle, mineral cycle and energy flow. By using these ecological indicators we have seven basic principals which are used to achieve our main goal – that is to give the ecosystem a quality of life. Unmanaged regrowth allows environmental degradation through erosion and this in turn allows for invasive pest plants which spread vegetatively thus having a negative impact on the native vegetation and wildlife as well as food production.



(b)

Unmanaged regrowth

Managed regrowth



By restricting regrowth clearing, our landholder rights to trading carbon credits are taken away. These rights have already been stolen by the current and previous locking up of vegetation. The PMAV process hailed as a measure of certainty for green groups, government and landholders. To understand the continual dividing of communities by the 'have and the have nots' is beyond my understanding. It was the tree clearing that divided landholders into the 'have and the have nots', where landholders were urged to 'dob' on each other. This is not the Australian way and not is it the Queensland way.

Under this proposed Vegetation Management Bill areas for banning regrowth management, many farmers will lose millions of dollars in lost production potential and downgraded valuation of their land. There is no science nor is there any economic, ecological, or environmental sense to this legislation.

Labour made a promise to me in 2003 where landholders would always be able to clear regrowth. Do not change this legislation. Good governance is providing guidance and incentives for responsible behaviour. Do not create an environment of fear where we as land owners who are responsible, articulate and confident are considered vandals of the land that we care for so dearly.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa Allen
On behalf of Don and Joe Allen