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.
see attached

Signed:	C Hodgson for Mark Hodgson
Address:	
Date:	22.3.18

What a joke giving only FOUR days to present a submission!

Agriculture is the industry of the future. Embrace it and reap!

Don't hinder the farmer's production, nurture it for now and the future

Today's farmers are first class custodians of the land. They are educated and make educated decisions.

If they neglect their land they neglect their business resulting in no business

The government has pushed for years now for farmers to be drought protected

Drought protected means harvesting crops to store, in many forms, on farm, to be utilized during a drought

This in turn saves the government revenue eg drought relief, family support, mental health, just to name a few

Being self sufficient during droughts means retention of livestock which in turn maintaining business

The government displays hypocrisy through the proposed amendments

Farming needs investment by our youth. It needs young energy and fresh ideas in enhancing new and more innovative practices for the farming community. The proposed amendments and constant changing of the VM Act hinder and youth's confidence and we need to instil confidence in our youth!!

Investment will be discouraged period!! A bright future for farming in Australia!

This brings me to succession planning. Succession planning is extremely difficult now because of the continuous changing of the VM Act and with the another change it is almost impossible

Having to submit an application for thinning vegetation and pushing mulga for fodder is a ridiculous notion. It didn't work in the past so why try to reintroduce a law that is so impractical and makes it tremendously hard for farmers to manage their vegetation exactly when they need to. In the past the time it takes to submit the application and then actually receive a response can be anywhere between 2 months to 2 years, which is such a joke. Self assessment with the use of codes is a far more practical method and has been working well. Why change something that is proven to be such a successful practice? Self assessment allows the management of land to be carried out exactly when it needs to be done, not having to wait around for however long it takes to receive approval (or more likely for the application to be denied) from the government. No one can control the weather, but we can somewhat prepare for certain weather events. Weather does not wait around for approvals to be issued.

Harsher penalties (bigger financial penalties) are not the answer. 99% of farmers are still on the land because it is their love and passion for what they do that keeps them there. Why would farmers intentionally destroy their life's work, and more importantly their livelihood?

The farming sector is a minority in the voting arena

The greens agenda is the 'good feel' approach to the majority of voters, green everywhere without considering the type of vegetation and the effect it may have on our Australian environment. The 'good feel' approach is not giving the farmer enough clout. Again the media will promote the worst scenario! The population living in the city and along the eastern seaboard do not realise and are unaware of the involvement of farming management. Their ignorance allows them to hear the greens' feel good approach' and vote accordingly, with a majority!!

There is a need for a balance re vegetation management and there is a balance now! Commonsense needs to prevail!!

If these amendments pass then the farmers will not be able to practice their farming practices to their full potential with educated decisions and commonsense. This in turn will reduce the farm's income. It is often a common practice for farmers to have an off farm income to enhance a successful farming business. The land will then become neglected and then there *will be* a worry of land degradation!!!

We have exceptional farmers. These Farmers are still farming, they have sustained their farming business as they have' weathered the storm'

Let's not hinder their progress