

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.

1 Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework

There is still so much country in our area that has yet to be developed. Country/Land set aside for these projects will become devalued and unproductive.

2. Retaining Self Assessable Codes

These codes are very important in certain ecosystems not only to increase production but to prevent the thickening of vegetation, which will become unmanageable. Thickening of certain vegetation does not mean a better ecosystem.

3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the vegetation management framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land.

The regulation of regrowth on certain parts of the land would be no different to the government walking into a Brisbane backyard and telling you when you can/cannot cut your grass. This applies to certain areas of the state and not to others. The State needs to be divided into catchment and runoff zones and regulated accordingly. Such regulation in our particular area would be catastrophic to all facets of the industry.

Once again the state needs to be divided into zones. Farmers within their own zones are the best voice for how this country should be managed and the government needs to spend more money on research and development to better understand each zone.

5. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements.

These rules will attribute to loss of production and in turn people livelihoods are at risk. Compensation should be made available to landholders and businesses directly affected or people will go broke.

6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.

Increasing this on an already flawed system would be to only make an example out of certain producers who have not been educated and informed by the government to begin with. Producers need education and assistance.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	22/03/2018