

Submission to the Proposed New Vegetation Management Laws in Queensland.

We wish to reject the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Laws in Queensland, and believe it will have a catastrophic effect on landholders and limited improvement to the environment.

Our family have been beef cattle producers for many years, and with the grandchildren now showing interest, that will make five generations who know their land and manage it sustainably to benefit both the environment and production – if we don't do it correctly we don't survive.

We don't believe in clearing all trees, but sustainably manage our land – trees regenerate quickly and it is an ongoing management cost to keep a balance of trees and grasses. There are many factors that affect the timing of management decisions – wet or dry seasons, health issues, cash flow issues, availability of contractors to name just a few, and no landholder needs to add waiting for a permit to that list.

We have PMAV contracts on all our land, so the new laws should not have a detrimental effect on us personally, but we have no confidence that this will continue to be the case.

Like many others, we paid to Freehold our land, paid for our PMAV believing that all this would add certainty to our ownership and allow us to manage our own land. The continuous amendments to Vegetation Management Laws are having a detrimental effect on all producers, the uncertainty is a heavy burden. We feel these changes are driven by politics in many cases rather than benefit to the environment.

The producers of food face an uphill battle with Mother Nature already, and don't need to be faced with increased red tape etc. and limitations on how they can manage THEIR land.

Our peak body Agforce did as the Government asked, and spent time and resources to formulate an acceptable solution for all parties, and the Labor Government went ahead with its own political agenda in a very hasty manner. Little time for submissions, few chances to attend “consultation” meetings and no thought of the detrimental impact on regional communities and businesses – not just the farmers themselves.

We believe it is vitally important for a balanced approach for Vegetation Management in Queensland to give certainty to everyone concerned. The days of a change of government, a change to vegetation laws should be banished forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Ahern Family - Barry, Del, Paul and Liam and their families,

