

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework
Removing the flexibility of future opportunities from farmers also removes the future capacity of the state to generate income and maintain its economic viability. A one size fits all approach has not ever worked beneficially in the past and will not in the future.
2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self assessable codes provide at least some small relief from the byzantine all encompassing nightmare that awaits anyone simply trying to go about their daily business of farming under the alternative arrangements. Why must we be treated like criminals when all we wish to do is continuing to operate our farms safely and productively?
3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
Regrowth occurs on pastoral lands as a never ending cycle. Managed properly on farms as is currently the case on the vast majority it provides biodiversity, while simultaneously allowing the farmer to generate income. Breaking this cycle means these lands very quickly become unproductive – effectively stealing the income potential from farmers without compensation and challenging their viability.
4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.
<p>-</p> <p>Again, more red tape, less productivity, less income for the state with no actual rather than perceived benefit.</p>
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

It seems quite astonishing that in a civilised democracy like ours that the state can steal (steal is the right word), the assets of lawful citizens without compensation. This simply destroys any notion of fair and equitable benevolent democratic Government and makes it unmistakably clear that the Government views landholders an enemy to be punished with religious zeal. Very simply, this approach is unethical and immoral. Shame on the Government

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

Not only are farmers being singled out, maligned and publicly persecuted at every turn, now they are to be further punitively punished by massive increases in compliance red tape and concomitant penalties for breaches, again underlining the dogged determination of the Government to further persecute farmers as if they are war criminals. There is no comparable area of state law where fines etc at this level can compare.

7. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration

We are just farmers trying extract a precarious living from our land. The trees are there because we have looked after them with no help or assistance from the Government and yet now we are left to feel like criminals for having the temerity to suggest that we know anything about managing our land for both biodiversity and productivity – that knowledge can only found in academics who live in the concrete jungle, where the environment has been completely erased and who have rarely ventured outside their urban wasteland. It is incredibly demoralising to be targeted in such an unethical and immoral way for purely political reasons.

Signed:	MW Armstrong
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