

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	<p>Removing the HVA component of legislation impedes our ability to improve efficiencies in our farming operations. There are several small patches of previously cleared incorrectly mapped that we currently work around in our cropping paddocks. Under HVA these could be tidied up to reduce our fertiliser and chemical overlap around them by straightening our tractor runs. At present the overlap to go around is more than the incorrectly mapped patch. By tidying these up we can make further reductions in our fertiliser and chemical applications over and above those already achieved with the GPS equipment on our machinery.</p>
2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes	<p>Self assessable codes for thinning are an essential tool on both our properties.</p> <p>The open downs on our property south of Blackall is being encroached upon by gidyea seedlings and needle bush. This area is increasing year by year and chokes out the native Mitchell grass that was originally there, leaving it bare and prone to erosion.</p> <p>On our Clermont property black wattle is thickening yearly, choking up water courses, forcing the water flow out of its original channels and creating erosion</p> <p>When we purchased Glenmore Downs in 1978 the creeks were mostly grass, coolibahs and teatree. Now they are choked thickly with black wattle and no grass.</p> <p>We require the self assessable codes to remain as they are to be able to maintain watercourses, reduce erosion and help protect the reef from sedimentary runoff.</p>
3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land	<p>While these proposed amendments do not affect PMAVs, we wish to draw attention to the certainty that this has provided us as landowners. It is a very useful tool and under no circumstances should they be scrapped and subject previously Category X areas to the new HVR conditions. We would also like to thank previous governments for providing the PMAV system.</p>
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4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.	

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	
The areas marked as high value regrowth devalues those areas as it impedes our ability to maintain cropping land and infrastructure.	
6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.	
The Enforceable Undertaking section of the new amendments should be removed. There is no right of reply given to the landholders to such huge fines. At the very least landholders should be afforded the right to appeal in court on an action that can see them subjected to fines in excess of \$500,000 and areas of restoration many times larger than the cleared sections.	
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	
Mapping inaccuracies need to be sorted out. We have had an application for PMAV amendments in for approximately fifteen months now and nothing has been finalised. There are several patches of previously cleared timber that are incorrectly mapped that are impeding our ability to maintain waterways on cropping land. This is actively contributing to erosion, the total opposite of protecting the reef which this new legislation is supposed to do.	
Retaining HVA sections of the act would address this problem.	

Signed:	Ken Obst
Address:	
Date:	22/03/18

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Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 Submission No 394	
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