

SUBMISSION

I provide my submission on rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 ("the Bill").

Attention: Committee Secretary

We are a young profitable family business located in the Murweh Shire in South West Queensland and it is due to our passion and respect for our land and good management practices such as selective clearing that we have a healthy biodiversity of ecosystems consisting of animals, birds, insects, grasses, shrubs and many trees. If we are restricted in managing our land, as the new laws will do, unnatural thickening and encroachment will leave our land and business unviable. We want the opportunity to drought proof our business for a sustainable future which includes the responsible management of our Mulga Lands. We cannot do this with constantly changing legislation leading to uncertainty and confusion.

Self-Assessable Codes have been very useful and more cost effective than lodging applications. Science based self-assessable codes help us to carry out the routine vegetation management practices necessary to sustainably deliver our products. These codes help us to ensure that trees and grass stay in balance, avoid soil erosion and feed animals in drought.

The new amendments to the code add extra complexities that our business does not need when we are trying to also deal with climate, markets, interest rates and existing policies. In addition, the penalties for not complying, even if mistakenly so, have effectively been tripled adding another level of stress.

One of the most worrying outcomes of these changes is the effect on communities. When we are able to run our business to full potential the flow on effect to small towns is immense.

To the Queensland Government – Let us run our businesses, let us show the rest of the world a first class profitable and sustainable agricultural industry while creating an environment rich with flora and fauna to pass on to our future generations. But most importantly let our rural families and communities flourish!!

Col and Kristy Cornford