

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.

Describe the impacts the changes will make to stall agriculture, discourage investment, and increase costs and time to manage vegetation.

In a grazing situation regrowth of timber is a fact of life. Since 1988 we have had to clear regrowth 3 times. This regrowth timber is cleaning the carbon dioxide, the old growth is not cleaning the carbon dioxide.

Many areas now have more timber on them than when Captain Cook landed in Australia.

This legislation is designed to make the figures look good for the Paris agreement, but these figures are not done with proper science. (underestimating the amount of good regrowth does to the atmosphere.)

like anything, you need a balance. Locking up tree clearing allows the trees to take over from the grass and the grass is what stops erosion.

With regard to the carbon dioxide levels and Paris agreements, farmers can fix the problem by increasing the organic carbon in their soils, they need to be rewarded for doing so. This is the answer to the carbon problem not flawed vegetation management legislation amendments.

Signed:

Robert Durr

Address:

Date:

22/3/18