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Committee Secretary
State Development , Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

22/03/2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept this letter as my submission regarding the **Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**.

My husband and I are 4th generation graziers and have the experience of trial and error of three previous generations to guide us in making choices for our land. As graziers we do not clear all trees from our land as we know it is not good for the environment or our animals and wildlife. We have found that native animals would prefer a similar environment to our cattle therefore they would prefer our land over less cared for land and uncleared scrub as there is not much grass there.

The introduction of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 would be detrimental to our management practices. Just last year we used the self-assessable codes to fence out some remnant vegetation to better manage our cattle and for Work place health and safety. Tropical cyclone Debbie came through here as a category 3 system and blew over a huge amount of trees in timbered areas making it difficult for us to muster our stock safely.

It is very difficult to maintain safety if we can't clear tracks to walk our cattle or around waters so that we can muster them. We have areas around waters that have been cleared less than 15 years that are marked as essential habitat. Anyone who has worked cattle will know that if you can catch them in open country it is safer and easier for the cattle and for the men and horses.

A lot of areas of timber has never been cleared on our land but in the 50 plus years of ownership in the family a lot of open forest country is becoming overgrown. We have noxious weeds such as Lantana, Rubbervine and Harissia cactus growing in the areas we can't touch. We would like to selectively clear some of this but it will just end up an impenetrable mess.

All of the creeks and rivers running through our land originate in National Parks or State Forests where noxious weeds grow uncontrolled. These areas will become jungles that wildlife will not want to enter. The only animals hiding in here will be feral pigs and deer.

Blade ploughing has been used here to open up the soil to allow the rain to penetrate deeper and so there is not as much runoff which means less topsoil is lost as well. The difference in pasture is incredible and the country does not dry out as quick.

Each generation has made improvements to the land in hopes of leaving it better than when we started. Improvements are made to help protect us from droughts and floods if possible.

We also need much better maps than are available. Satellite internet and Queensland Globe do not go well together and the map that is emailed out is ridiculous in size and definition.

The graziers in western Queensland should also be allowed to harvest mulga for livestock during drought. It is impossible to either import or afford the cost of fodder to keep stock alive during severe drought conditions as has been experienced in the last few years.

With more expense and red tape families will sell up to companies and foreign interests who will care less about the land and more about profit. Mining and development destroy more habitat than grazing stock ever will.

By changing the vegetation management bill every few years farmers and graziers are unable to plan for the future. They will also not be compensated for the loss of production or the work they have already done. Those whom owe money to banks may lose their place due to the decrease in value.

I hope you will consider my submission.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Cox

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Helen Cox', written in dark ink.