

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.

The flow through effects of reduced productivity in the Western downs region by not allowing Property owners to maintain remnant vegetation and regrowth vegetation will directly impact the Local Economy and then flow on impacting the national economy.

Examples

- **In our small town there are 4 dozer operating businesses and also a number of Property owners who have invested in their own machinery – those 4 family owned business will no longer be viable. The owners and the staff they employ will be forced to relocate to the cities to seek employment. The property owner who has invested in his own machinery now has an asset that has no value because the market is now flooded and also has to make redundant the employee (and his family) that has been employed as an operator.**
- **Maintaining remnant vegetation and regrowth vegetation is often opportunistic and cannot often be done on a as needed basis. As an example: during the 2006-2008 drought conditions were idea to maintain regrowth but we were not financially able to. The seasons have improved and financially we are able to afford to maintain regrowth however due to the last two wet summers we have not been able to get a dozer into some paddocks.**
- **The direct effect of a loss of production to our business would reduce the viability of our business and devalue our land asset – there is no value in an unproductive parcel of land.**

Signed:	Linda Brimblecombe
Address:	
Date:	22/3/2018