

Reason for confidentiality:

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

<p>1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework</p> <p>The removal of High-Value Agriculture is a major issue for our business. In 2014 we applied and were rejected for our HVA Application, as we have around 1500acres of country that is suitable for growing crops, however it is covered in thick Gidgee Trees.</p> <p>Had we been granted the HVA, we would now be dryland farming and potentially irrigating 1500 acres of cropping land. This would not only have increased our efficiency and productivity, but also provided around 3000 tons of grain crops annually that would assist in feeding the world.</p> <p>It frustrating that whilst many Queensland Farmers are battling ongoing droughts, market fluctuations, vegetation management laws, never ending government redtape – thousands of men, women and children across the world are starving and undernourished from a lack of food and protein. Meanwhile, the Queensland Government is only trying to decrease our States food and fibre production, rather than look at assisting and supporting our many farmers.</p> <p>The HVA Framework is essential to allow new farming projects to be developed across our State. Of course, the environmental management is part of this, however, what the government and green activists fail to realise is that managing the environment is essential for ALL farmers for our own longevity; so our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren can continue to manage and farm the land for hundreds of generations to come.</p>
<p>2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes</p> <p>The Self-Assessable Code is imperative, in it's current format, to be maintained to ensure that our current vegetation thickening can be managed. This is not requesting to clear more land on a broad scale; moreover, it is about maintaining the land in its natural state, before European Settlement.</p> <p>It is clearly obvious just how much vegetation has thickened our on our properties in the Clermont district. Our family has been in the Clermont area for over 100 years and the knowledge of vegetation thickening has been passed down through the generations. In areas where you could once muster on horse-back through "semi-open Ironbark" vegetation, you are now unable to even see through it, let alone ride a horse or motorbike and only helicopters are able to be used to muster cattle from these areas. It is obvious, even in my short lifetime of 30 years, just how much the vegetation has continued to thicken.</p> <p>There are a few clear reasons for this, with the most important issue being a lack of fire to maintain the management of the undercarriage. Before European Settlement, native Australian people carried out regular burning practices so they could maintain a clear bushland for hunting and gathering their food and supplies. Since the introduction and farming of cattle, this has all</p>

changed as the cattle maintain the grass and there is not enough fuel to allow large scale burning operations, hence, no maintenance of the thickening vegetation.

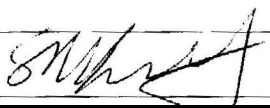

If Australia was like many other Western Countries and farmers were subsidised by the Government, there would be no reason to run as many cattle and burning could be carried out more regularly. Unfortunately, this is far from reality. Queensland farmers need to maintain conservative stocking rates for remain viable. Costs of production are continually going through the roof; electricity, wages, fuel; the list is endless. Unless our farmers continue to develop their land and maintain thickening regrowth; we will simply become unviable.

Farming is no different to any other business; you keep improving, modifying, learning and developing; OR, you simply get left behind. A perfect example of this in business is Kodak. Kodak refused to move into the digital era, choosing to stay with old photography technology; and now, they have lost their place as a market leader in the field.

Without Self-Assessable Codes for maintaining thickening vegetation, many farmers, including ourselves, will undoubtedly, over time, become less productive and eventually, unviable.

<p>3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land</p>	<p>It is absolutely imperative that no further layers, regulations and complicated frameworks are added to what is already an unviable set of vegetation management laws. The government fails to look at history and learn from mistakes of the past. An example that I have recently read about is the introduction of tax on Alcohol purchases in Queensland. The theory behind the increase in tax was to limit the consumption of alchohol by the community and therefore, reduce potential violence, help with health problems, etc. This is fine, however, what was overlooked is that human beings still remain human beings. There is a desire in a human beings nature to consume something to help them relax, and wind-down. When the government plays big brother and try's to take away this simple human right, it comes with a set issues. Now, across Queensland and Australia, we see a huge problem with the recently created Ice Epidemic. Teenage children, as well as adults, are choosing the purchase methamphetamine drugs, such as Ice, for a fraction of the price as alchohol, to achieve the same things; wind down and relax. The problem is that Ice is illegal, as well as having huge problems with addiction and mental health problems.</p> <p>The government set out to achieve a desired outcome by lifting the tax on alchohol and now making it unaffordable to many people. In the process, they have created a much much bigger problem, in the rise of the Ice Epidemic.</p> <p>The same goes for over-regulation of vegetation management and High-Value Regrowth. The land has already been cleared and now the government wants to over regulate and cause chaos and confusion with other additional layers. This will simply create another bigger problem; in the form of an increase in rural suicide and mental health problems as farmer after farmer receives fines, investigation and further red tape that stops allowing them to do what they have been doing extremely well for many many years.</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.
No comment
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
Full economic forecasts can be provided on request.
6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.
As mentioned under section 3. If the Queensland Government wants to see more and more problems created, then continue with the Farmer Bashing. We already see 14 year old girls, in Dolly Everett, choosing to take their own lives due to bullying. This problem will only grow if Qld Government continue to bully farmers with their radical, green influenced, uneconomical and unsupportive vegetation management policy changes.
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
Refer to all responses already mentioned.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	22/3/18