

SUBMISSION TO:***THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018***

Email: sdnraidc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Contact: Rick Gurnett

Email:

Phone:

My wife and I own and operate together with our son and daughters a 24000 ha mulga block west of Charleville. This property is held under a fee simple Freehold title which under Property Law gives us exclusive right to our property which includes land and all that is annexed to it including all vegetation and carbon of which by law we have the exclusive right to. The only reservation the State has is for minerals and petroleum. Our primary source of production is vegetation of which mulga represents the largest percentage. Over the last 6 years over ninety percent of our production has derived from mulga. As a result of purchasing and improving this property over the last 31 years we carry a substantial debt, this along with the ever-increasing cost of production presents us with a constant challenge to service that debt and provide for our family. The current VMA has had a huge impact on our ability to maintain viability and manage our stocks nutritional needs as mulga forms a large part of their diet even in above average years. The VMA has torn our communities to shreds, devastated families, caused depression, workplace accidents and suicides as individual entities have been asked to carry the load and bear the burden of expectations from successive State Governments. Rural families have been the first to feel the pain but the VMA is like a slow growing cancer affecting the whole community. Small businesses that thrived twenty years ago have either closed and left our towns or are now struggling with many wondering just what their future holds or how much longer they can last. Young people are losing hope and leaving the towns that need them most, many see no future as government legislation and policy has removed any opportunity for

employment and to raise a young family and give them the opportunities that families in the south east corner enjoy. As the socio-economic position of rural towns decline, spending is limited to a narrow band of suppliers and the liveability of these towns declines day by day. The ability to have certainty in any business for financing, planning etc is trashed as policy settings are adjusted at every election cycle by Government with unnecessary changes to the current legislation. There will be a vast array of complications that this Bill does not take into consideration that will jeopardise the future viability of our rural communities.

This Bill is a huge violation of property law and a gross miscarriage of justice as clause 4:s190 clearly demonstrates. Clause 4:s190 amendment removes the MANDATORY requirement for codes for fodder harvesting and replaces it with a DISCRETIONARY requirement. Essentially this amendment places the livelihoods of families and indeed entire communities at the discretion of a single minister.

The court of Common Law provide no provisions for any State Government to legislate people out of their own freehold property, this Bill is a total abuse of legislative power and if enacted has the potential to prove very costly to the Government.

The Legislative Standards Act 1992 presents legislators with requirements when enacting laws and this Bill along with the codes for fodder harvesting (using one's own property) DO NOT meet the majority of these requirements.

This Bill is not consistent with principles of natural justice.

This Bill allows and delegates administrative powers to inappropriate persons.

This Bill confers power to enter premises and search for or seize evidence or other property, without a warrant or even authorisation which is in direct conflict with the requirements of the Legislative Standards Act 1992.

This Bill does not provide appropriate protection against self-incrimination.

This Bill adversely affects the rights and liberties of the persons.

This Bill provides no fair compensation.

This Bill is in no way consistent with the fundamental principles of property law.

There is no provision in the Legislative Standards Act that allows for any breach of these requirements based on public benefit and I do not accept the justification for these breaches as outlined in the Explanatory Notes for this Bill. During the public briefing in Brisbane the executive director of land policy was asked "Has the Department (DNRME) undertaken any modelling in relation to the effects the proposed legislation will have on agricultural production across the state in the future?" his answer was NO "Does the Department intend to?" his answer again NO. This alone provides the evidence that the Government do not know how much negative impact this Bill will have on the people of Queensland and the State's economy and that they do not care. Public benefit was cited as justification for not meeting the Legislative Standards Act, however the Government has not undertaken any study to know what cost/loss this Bill would deliver to the public and cannot prove any net benefit to the public of Queensland.

This Bill and its impact in no way can be compared to any government regulation that impacts on suburban residents and their land. The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel has a responsibility to adhere to the LSA when drafting legislation. This Bill clearly shows their arrogance towards the LSA and clearly questions their integrity when drafting legislation. This is a dangerous position for any Government to find itself in and exposes them to a class action by the people that are being served such a large slice of injustice by Bills such of this.

Studies have been carried out by scientists such as Bill Burrows and Ian Beale who have many years' experience in the Department of Primary Industries. These studies show woody shrubs and eucalyptus are continually thickening, strangling production, and causing negative impacts on the environment and river systems. These studies highlight the scientific material relied upon for this Bill being little more than green propaganda. We have within our government departments, people whose personal green anti human views are affecting their ability to provide empirical evidence based balanced reports.

The proposed Bill amends the Vegetation Management Act 1999 to provide a new power of entry that will allow an authorised officer to enter a place where the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that a vegetation clearing offence is happening or has happened. This will allow the authorised officer to enter and re-enter a property without the occupier's consent or a warrant to investigate whether a vegetation clearing offence has happened or is happening at the place. This is a blatant disregard for a property owners rights to refuse entry to anyone on their property without a warrant. This provision removes the property owner's ability to manage biosecurity on their property and could place peoples lives and wellbeing at serious risk through the lack of knowledge (that a person is in the area). When any Government feels that it needs to legalise trespass for compliance officers then we have a real problem. There are ample opportunities for an employee of the Government to enter private property lawfully that would not hinder any work they need to carry out, without this sort of Nazi policy, that will put Government workers at loggerheads with the communities they have to live and work in.

As Judge Mason said in the High Court of Australia "If the Courts of Common Law do not uphold the rights of individuals by granting effective remedies, they invite anarchy, for nothing breeds social disorder as quickly as a sense of injustice which is apt to be generated by the unlawful invasion of a person's right, particularly when the invader is a Government Official."

Independent sensors on Japan's IBUKI and NASA's OCO-2 satellites now both show Queensland is a net annual sink for CO₂. Farming is by default, a carbon storage business, you cannot produce anything without storing carbon whether that be beef, grain, cotton, sugar etc, to grow anything you must sequester carbon. This carbon feeds the nations people and is stored as the second most abundant element in the human body, carbon is essential for all life on earth.

This Bill is a Bill against humanity and should be thrown from the House straight into the incinerator never to return.

The absence of an Upper House in Queensland Parliament places particular responsibility on the Legislative Assembly of Queensland when enacting legislation, it is therefore imperative that this committee understands the complications and impediments of this bill and is very thorough and unbiased in their report to parliament of these.

The Queensland Parliament over the last thirty years has enacted without doubt some very poor legislation causing large negative impacts on our economy and environment (just look at the State Debt and the damage that has been caused by the Vegetation Management Act). They have backed and supported multinational energy companies causing the States worst environmental disasters such as the Linc energy debacle at Chinchilla. At the same time State owned and managed land has the reputation of being the worst managed land in the State whether it be a National Park or road corridors. Weeds, pests, erosion and unmanaged woody growth is causing damage not only to the ecosystems and river catchments they are within but are detrimental to farming and grazing operations all over the State. It is an undeniable fact that the best managed land and ecosystems are on privately owned land.

The current Queensland Governments "Queensland Food and Fibre Policy" identifies the agriculture sector as the mainstay of the Queensland economy and commits the Government to support the growth of the industry, this Bill if enacted will drive agricultural production in Queensland down for years to come.

I ask the question, if we must have these laws for the benefit of all Queenslanders then why are such a small number being asked to carry the load? Should we not ask all Queenslanders to chip in for their carbon footprint so that the landholder could receive an income stream from the storage of that carbon and preservation of the trees on their property.

I understand how hard it is for any MP to read and understand the intricate nature and complications of any Bill, but if you put your hand up for the job then it's about time MPs started doing that job and not relying on bureaucracy who are running this country into the ground.

I ask the committee members how they would cope with legislation that removes their income and their right to effective use of their property, an analogy might be:

Your house in Brisbane that you have worked all your life to acquire valued at 2.5 million dollars, this is your dream home, you and your partner work hard every day of the week to pay down the debt that you owe. You wake up one morning and the Government has legislated your leafy suburb a green zone for conservation, you can no longer mow your grass, prune trees or till any ground. Transport of any kind is prohibited from the said zone, your house can stay but doors and windows must be left open so wildlife and the homeless can move about and shelter freely, no compensation is payable. These are all reasonable measures to any green socialist and are backed up by reports from Queensland Herbarium, CSIRO and the WWF. You both lose your jobs because of your inability to get to and from work, house values take a dive, your bank phones and informs you that your equity has fallen below their acceptable level and they need the remaining five hundred-thousand-dollar loan paid out within thirty days. You approach other banks, but no banks are lending in the green zone, your time is up, the bank has you forcibly evicted, they sell your house for ten thousand dollars to save the possum foundation and pursue you for the remaining four hundred and ninety thousand dollars. How would you cope? Would you legislate such a bill? This is what the VMA is doing to many families in rural Queensland. This Bill will speed up the devastation for many families in rural Queensland.

In summary THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018 should be rejected in its entirety, it lacks INTEGRITY, is a VIOLATION of PROPERTY LAW, does not meet the Legislative Standards Act, impinges on the most basic human rights and is a total abuse of legislative power.

Regards,

Rick Gurnett

A short science lesson /www.scienceclarified.com/Ca-Ch/Carbon-Cycle

The carbon cycle is the process in which carbon atoms are recycled over and over again on Earth. Carbon recycling takes place within Earth's biosphere and between living things and the nonliving environment. Since a continual supply of carbon is essential for all living organisms, the carbon cycle is the name given to the different processes that move carbon from one to another. The complete cycle is made up of "sources" that put carbon back into the environment and "sinks" that absorb and store carbon.

Recycling carbon

Earth's biosphere can be thought of as a sealed container into which nothing new is ever added except the energy from the Sun. Since new matter can never be created, it is essential that living things be able to reuse the existing matter again and again. For the world to work as it does, everything has to be constantly recycled. The carbon cycle is just one of several recycling processes, but it may be the most important process since carbon is known to be a basic building block of life. As the foundation atop which a huge family of chemical substances called organic substances are formed, carbon is the basis of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids—all of which form the basis of life on Earth.

Since all living things contain the element carbon, it is one of the most abundant elements on Earth. The total amount of carbon on Earth, whether we are able to measure it accurately or not, always remains the same, although the carbon regularly changes its form. A particular carbon atom located in someone's eyelash may have at one time been part of some now-extinct species, like a dinosaur. Since the dinosaur died and decomposed millions of years ago, its carbon atoms have seen many forms before ending up as part of a human being. It may have been part of several plants and trees, free-floating in the air as carbon dioxide, locked away in the shell of a sea creature and then buried at the ocean bottom, or even part of a volcanic eruption. Carbon is found in great quantities in Earth's crust, its surface waters, the atmosphere, and the mass of green plants. It is also found in many different chemical combinations, including carbon dioxide (CO₂) and calcium carbonate (CaCO₃), as well as in a huge variety of organic compounds such as hydrocarbons (like coal, petroleum, and natural gas).