



ABN 71122752765



21/03/2018

RE: Vegetation Management Amendment Bill 2018

Business Overview:

As an investment decision we purchased 3 properties in the Blackall, Barcaldine districts in the past 4 and a half years with a view to produce organic livestock and improve the carrying capacity by **managing thickened vegetation** under guide lines which were in place **effective 8 august 2014** , this would enable , encourage and sustain grass cover in treated areas in a balanced way as well as maintaining carrying capacity while restoring ecosystems to typical floristic state.

Properties were purchased based on a carrying capacity of X numbers to fund bank loans, rates, wages, taxes and numerous other running costs associated with running a grazing property which benefits the local community.

Part of our business is also carrying out contract works to help other graziers to manage their land in a sustainable manner therefore we see on a daily basis the amount of thickened vegetation and the loss of grass cover and production.

By further restricting thinning areas the new code will place greater grazing pressure on treated areas and any category x land to maintain a viable business which in turn leads to land degradation and woody weed invasion and overgrazing

Under the old code.

Managing thickened vegetation in the Mitchell Grass Downs and the Channel Country bioregions

A self-assessable vegetation clearing code

Restores the whole ecosystems to typical state

Fair and balanced guide lines

Less red tape

Less restrictive

Maintain sustainable business

Less land degradation

Provision to prosecute for non-compliance

New code

Accepted development vegetation clearing code

Managing thickened vegetation



4 Area Limits

To comply with this code , the management of thickened vegetation must not exceed any of the following limits :

3. on non-coastal lots greater than 100 hectares – 10 per cent of the total area of category B areas of the lot or 400 ha , whichever is the lesser

Example: I have a 10,000 ha lot , the most I can treat is 400 ha ,which is 4 per cent of total lot the other 9600 ha is unable to be treated and slowly but surely thickens to be less productive and degrades.

Example: My neighbor has 10,000 ha in 2 lots, same vegetation , same country type , therefore is able to treat 800 ha , 100 per cent more due to his holding being in 2 lots

Comments

New code for managing thickened vegetation is too restrictive to achieve its objective 1.3

Will devalue land assets due to thickened vegetation and loss of production

Will encourage invasive woody weeds due to limited area which can be treated

Too restrictive in the amount of area that can be treated

General comments

There needs to be accurate data to measure thickened vegetation before imposing further restrictions

If further restrictions are imposed on farmers there is a need for a compensation mechanism to be in place for loss of production and asset value.