

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SUBMISSION

From Leonard Martin (for L & JM Martin)

I am a 4th generation farmer and cattle producer on Rangelands country on the northern Darling Downs. Since my parents acquired [REDACTED] over 80 years ago we have always practised conservative farming and grazing management procedures. These practices have attributed to our 'still being here'.

Farmers need balanced, sensible and sustainable veg management legislation. At all times we are considering our delicate environment, our solodic soil and our vegetation on 'Allambie'

- Most of the clearing on our land is to control regrowth ie areas that have previously been cleared and for routine management eg along a fence line, maintaining fire breaks and access tracks.
- Our native forest management enables the Saw-millers to cut high value timber for wood for the housing /construction industry from 'Allambie' every 20-30years.
- Thinning strategically removes thickening trees to encourage native grass growth
- Encroachment necessitates the removal of trees and shrubs from our naturally open grassland areas
- Eradication of invasive weeds

In our country there is a lot of regrowth each year; each year there is some clearing/tidying up as the regrowth has to be cleared for the property to be productive and financially viable.

There is a lot of vegetation thickening. The forest is thicker than it ever was, because of changed grazing practices. In my Grandfather's time he could ride a horse and sulky through the forest, now I am unable to ride a horse through some of the same forest.

Our mulga country was grass growing country with scattered trees – now it is thickly timbered with bare soil underneath. For us, grass is the ultimate protection of our soil with a mosaic of trees.

In Parliament and in the media we hear that the Queensland Government can measure vegetation clearing rate. There is no accurate measurement showing how much vegetation has grown over the same period.

While our management adheres to the 5 dot points above, we also are currently nurturing a corridor of naturally occurring blue gums along our creek. We have also trialled a wattle mulching method to return the mulch to the soil for soil rejuvenation and have recently established a mixed species plantation to support a corridor of brigalow trees nearby.. thus providing a natural habitat for flora and fauna.

We are the caretakers of this land for the generations , who will follow. We have had no difficulty with the PMAV system and earnestly request that the PMAV system continues. Please honour this approach.

Finally, I refer the Committee and the Minister to the Agforce's 'Healthy Environment, Healthy Agriculture Plan'. I believe this is a plan for all Governments and landholders for the future.