

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;

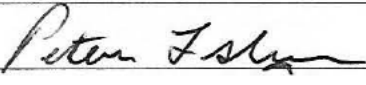
- The purpose for High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture will be removed.
- Extends Category B areas (remnant vegetation) and Category C (regrowth vegetation) to freehold land, and indigenous freehold land. Additional 862 000ha High Value Regrowth and water course buffers to all 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 administration expectations to apply for a fodder permit under the new guidelines are unrealistic and impractical for a small family concern which is solely reliant on daily feeding of mulga during a drought.
- The 500-hectare ruling is not practical especially when only two fifths of this is available for fodder.
- The back dating of the legislation where fodder is concerned brings on an animal welfare issue where stock cannot be feed because the current permits are no longer valid and the time frame and conditions for the new permits are totally unworkable. They seem to be designed to trap people rather than assist the process.
- The new fines that are being introduced nearly reek of communism.
- Many graziers have borrowed a lot of money to buy machinery to provide fodder to their stock and now the government is making it very hard to justify this expense, which in turn has a flow on effect to our local towns where we buy fuel and parts.
- Mulga when left unattended becomes a woody weed that is also a low carbon emitter and out of reach for stock, so by feeding fodder the regrowth is a better alternative for the environment.
- These laws are taking away grazier's viability and freehold rights that have been purchased at a great expense, so incurring a lot of debt which will be hard to service under these new guidelines.
- It is hard to believe that this present government has introduced new laws concerning fodder in one of the worst droughts, when the previous system was working efficiently and

not detrimental to the environment. This will also be reflected in the communities and towns that are already reeling from the effects of drought.

- Broad scale clearing that is done for pasture improvement and fodder harvesting are two totally different identities that never should have come under the same banner at anytime during the tree clearing debate. Fodder harvesting is done efficiently without a detrimental effect on the environment under the self-accessible code by the majority of land holders. The DNR has the resources in place already to see the people that are doing the wrong thing, so why do we need these impractical changes that must be incurring a great deal of unnecessary expense to the government?
- To be productive, graziers need to be environmentally aware and look after their land to be sustainable, which is the real description of being green. It appears that we are paying the price for developers and mining companies (e.g. Adani) to go ahead and rape the land, and hence spoil the Great Barrier Reef. How is this justifiable when the mulga lands are so far from the reef and our rivers flow south, not east?

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	21/3/2018