

## 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.

### **Managing thickening:**

**Our vegetation is about 65% Category X, the majority containing mulga type country. The rest is mapped as 'of concern' and 'not of concern'. We need this 35% 'of concern' and 'not of concern' vegetation to be productive for us to be viable. The majority of the 35% is softer grass type country being over run with woody weeds.**

**With out thinning this country becomes at risk of erosion due to the lack of ground cover, and promotes a scrubby monoculture. Ecologically and financially land in this condition has no value to any one. The future of the agriculture industry in the mulga lands will be severely impacted both in terms of production and land value.**

**Remember it is free hold land and we own it. We have contractual agreements with financial institutions and Government bodies requiring us to manage our business (the land) sustainably, productively and financially well to set obligations and guidelines. Graziers are faced with expanding and overriding bureaucracy who create unnecessary and repetitive red tape, I feel some will just give up and leave the industry.**

**The changes to the thinning codes from 30 trees/ha to 100 trees/ha will make a lot of these areas unsustainable. Who in their right mind would think that two thinning codes could possibly cover Queensland?**

**I am greatly concerned the mapping of the Regional ecosystems in this area is incorrect.**

**Fodder harvesting:**

In times of drought we are focused entirely on maintaining stock health, this requires constant daily activity from sunup to sundown. It is physically exhausting, unrelenting, financially and mentally depleting. It can be a 'natural disaster' to us if not managed appropriately. The last thing graziers' need is additional and repetitive red tape, which makes us feel like idiots and eco-vandals.

Graziers in the mulga lands understand mulga needs managing to maintain a healthy and diverse ecosystem.

Understanding the complex changes to fodder harvesting practises and the ability to abide by the changes has increased stress and uncertainty. The way this government is handling this issue is creating a lot of anxiety and fear for Graziers who have managed their country in a similar way for generations.

Eg: With a fodder harvesting permit, is the whole property covered, or are you restricted to certain areas?

(Technically you could have stock spread out over a large area, can that permitted 500ha be over the whole property or is it restricted to a 500ha block?)

Signed:	RSJ
Address:	
Date:	20/3/18