

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.

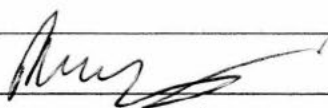
The impacts of the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Act include;

- 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 inability to thin vegetation will result in a reduction of light penetration to the grass layer. Without light photosynthesis does not take place. Without grass growth, ground cover percentages are reduced which leads to rain drop erosion and sheet erosion and consequent degrading of the environment leading to greater sediment runoff to the reef.
- *The cost in both time and finance will be just another tax on the farmers and graziers of this state. Remember we are the sector that actually pays tax not like all the foreign companies that ship their profits offshore.
- *This change in legislation will affect the people that actually own and manage the land while those who chose to take out mining claims and leases will continue to be protected by the mineral resources act which allows them to do what they want with vegetation on areas that they don't even own.
- *The flow on effects of this legislation will be felt by all Queenslanders be it the local earthmoving contractors, fuel suppliers, repair shops or just "Joe Blogs" who wants to buy Queensland-grown produce.

Signed:



Address:

Date:

21/03/2018