

SDNRAIDC

From:
Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2018 10:23 AM
To: SDNRAIDC
Subject: SDNRAIDC Committee

Dear Hearing Committee,

We are writing to you to voice our extreme concern at the proposed changes to the Vegetation Management Legislation.

The Legislation as it stood before March 8, was a positive resource for Queensland as it used practical scientific advice on best land management recommendations, where it managed to let Farmers and Graziers do the work of assessing and implementing common sense vegetation management maintenance and control on their own land. This legislation also managed to cut red tape, saving taxpayers money with reduced processing and assessment by departmental staff.

We all recognise that native vegetation is crucial for a healthy environment. However, taking action to prevent regrowth on private property (particularly Category X & C), will do nothing but harm the environment and reverse the great work many landholders have completed over generations. In most instances this work has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and creating millions of dollars for our state and local economies, managing to keep many towns in rural and regional Queensland economically viable.

Protecting regrowth will have a negative impact on the environment, as these trees and shrubs always thicken and grow at a much higher stem density as the average floristic composition for its particular regional eco system. This canopy then smothers and kills native grasses and herbages that encourage and sustain healthy bio diversity in these environments. A healthy eco system starts at the Grass Roots level.....in the soil, the soil microbes feed our plants and other micro organisms that then feed macro organisms, small insects etc that supply our small reptiles, mammals and birds with necessary food supplies and so on and so on.....

We are not botanical scientists but we are very passionate about the land we work and live in and want to keep calling Home for generations and generations.

Many of our Category B areas have encroached to a thickened state since colonisation due to a number of factors including a lack of effective pioneering land management and grazing pressures from livestock and native wildlife (mainly macropods whose populations boomed with agricultural development). These areas have been studied and documented extensively and recommendations of the management of these regional eco systems have been made and included in our clearing codes and are very responsible and effective. Many of these areas need to be returned to their natural floristic composition again to encourage bio diversity and sustainable production. By changing the existing clearing codes (prior March 8), these results will not be possible as the proposed guidelines are not effective, unworkable and will be severely detrimental to the environment and primary production in Queensland.

Our modern Queensland Farmers and Graziers provide a service to Queensland by managing these areas with pride and grass roots knowledge, working with the weather and economical challenges, co operating with government legislation, providing food for our state and playing a huge part in the Queensland economy. They are custodians of the majority of bushland and native habitat in Queensland and endeavour to make every effort at their own personal and financial costs, to strike the ultimate balance of conservation and primary production for the future prosperity of all Queenslanders.

We firmly believe that the Vegetation Management Legislation should remain as was prior to March the 8th.

Appreciating your consideration to these matters.

Regards

Reece Campbell and Danielle Holz