

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.

If the proposed tree clearing laws go through, we will lose the production of our land. Land value will decrease, as will production and the flow on affect this will have will affect many down the line, trucking companies, local businesses, the Australian economy, just to name a few. Not only that, this is our livelihood, for our families and for our country. We strive to produce the cleanest and most efficient product we possibly can whilst caring for the environment and promoting sustainability.

No Farmers-No Food

Australian agriculture should be owned and operated by Australians, I fear that if these laws are brought in it will mean that we can no longer sustainably stay on the land and someone from overseas will buy up what we have to sell and profits and products will be exported back to their country.

Signed:

Address:

Date:

22/03/2018