

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.

All we ask is that the Palaszcauk Government stop and consult with those who are caring for the land and producing food for our nation –

Our Aim

– grow clean, green, 100% grass-fed quality beef for EU and domestic market

(low fat, high protein natural beef is an important food source – without which there would be an incredible amount of pressure to develop more land for cropping to feed the world)

- have an environmentally friendly system that is sustainable for future generations*
- to do this we need to ensure our soil is healthy*
- we need the right balance of grass and trees to reduce erosion*

Experience -

** 30 years on same property*

** When purchased*

- heavily timbered so very little grass cover and a lot of erosion*
- carrying capacity – 1,200 LU*

** Carefully developed the property throughout the 30 years*

- partial reduction in trees has allowed extensive grass coverage and hence reduced erosion*
- carrying capacity – 3,200 LU*

** Freehold*

- We made a huge investment to Freehold our properties because we knew we had to protect our land for future generations.*
- The government's ever-changing ruling around vegetation management (especially recently without consultation with landholders) shows that the environment and care of the land is not their priority.*

Major Concern – Where to start?

** PMAVs – mapping on PMAVs has been changed without any consolation and with gross errors*

1st example – Some VIRGIN country on our property is listed as "High value re-growth" on the most recent PMAV – (obviously when we treated regrowth we kept this VIRGIN country standing and ignored what the government had it listed as because we know our country and what is important for its health)

2nd example – Regrowth that we had treated 3 times over 30 years suddenly changed classification on our most recent PMAV

** We have done the right thing and invested much valuable time trying to correct the errors on the current PMAVs, yet they have been submitted to the government for over 14 months with no response.*

** Considering the above, how then can Landholders be penalised in the instance of a mistake?*

Again all we ask is that the Palaszcauk Government stop and consult with those who are caring for the land and producing food for our nation. Thank you.

*Cynthia Anderson on behalf on
Bernard Anderson, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 22-3-2018.*