

## 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.

**As producers of the clean, safe, environmentally sustainable food that you enjoy and the fibre that you wear, we are responsible custodians of land that has been cared for during three generations of our family; we are here for today, tomorrow and the foreseeable future. We have invested our time, our money, our lives and the interest of our children in the land we care for.**

**Vegetation management is an ongoing part of our business, necessary and proven, and the changes in the legislation will bring about irreversible ecological damage by creating vast areas of declining biodiversity value in tree dense land that was once environmentally diverse and productive.**

**There seems to be a blatant disregard for the experience and knowledge of the people who live and work in our industry, in good seasons and bad, through the rise and fall of commodity prices, through successive government changes and through changes that have the potential to threaten the very heart of rural industry. We need to be able to do our job within practical, viable and effective vegetation management framework that will ensure the land is valued for both productive and environmental reasons.**

Signed: Patricia Cameron

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