

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.

Dear Sir/Madam

The Compagnoni family has lived on the land in the Mitchell district for more than a 100 years and we hope we will be able to do so for the next 100 years.

Our connection and love of this land is unbreakable and ongoing. This land is cherished and we have certainly nurtured it to the best of our ability. This has included significant time, effort and cost involved in managing vegetation.

I am a fifth-generation grazier and am currently in my 2nd year at UNE in Armidale, studying Agriculture Science. I am majoring in Sheep and Wool as well as animal nutrition, and is very much looking forward to having a future on the land. I hope that the rural industries will be able to support all young people that commit to agriculture as their chosen career. If the proposed changes to the current Vegetation management laws are introduced, will there be a sustainable future for them?

Vegetation management is an ongoing and never ending part of managing country in this region. The self-assessable codes help farmers ensure trees and grass stay in balance, avoid soil erosion and feed animals in drought. It also helps with our time management. Less time required to obtain permits for work to be done, means more time in the paddock looking after our stock.

Brigalow regrowth is one of our many management challenges. When a Brigalow tree is knocked down it immediately begins to rejuvenate and over time diminishes the productivity of the land. It means more trees and less grass, not just for our production use, but for all animals.

Mulga is also greatly valued as an asset. They are simply one of the best fodder trees for livestock and it is absolutely in our interests to use it sparingly. In times of drought, Mulga is used to feed livestock, and in a good season it has a chance to rejuvenate. We are all aware of the importance of this valuable self-regenerating fodder resource without further restrictions being imposed under these new laws, as the next generation will also need them.

It is my considered opinion that the new vegetation management laws being introduced by the Palaszczuk government are a major step backwards in terms of agricultural production and environmental outcomes.

Unfortunately, the legislation will limit our ability to properly manage this landscape. It is clear these complex new laws add unnecessary red tape to this process and will inhibit desirable environmental outcomes.

I ask the committee to reject the laws as they have been presented and recommend the continuation of the existing laws.

Yours sincerely,




Emma-Lea Compagnoni

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Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	21/03/18