

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework
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THE ENTIRE WET TROPICS REGION IS CLASSED HVA.

WHAT FAITH CAN YOU HAVE IN THE QLD LABOUR GOVERNMENT IF THEY MAKE KNEE JERK LEGISLATION CHANGES TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF AN ENTIRE REGION, EFFECTING THE LIVELYHOOD OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BY DEVALUEING THIS REGION, TO APPEASE A MINORITY THAT THEY NEED TO MAINTAIN POWER IN THE STATE PARLIAMENT.

IN 1993, I PURCHASED A 100Ha PROPERTY IN THIS AREA. IN 1994, 50Ha WAS LOCKED UP UNDER THE VEG MANAGEMENT ACT OF THE DAY AND REMOVED FROM MY CONTROL IN EVERY WAY, EXCEPT MY RIGHT TO PAY TAXES ON THE LAND IN THE FORM OF COUNCIL RATES, AND THE MORTGAGE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH WAS BASED UPON 100Ha OF FARM LAND. THIS LIMITATION ON MY ABILITY TO DEVELOP THIS PROPERTY TO IT'S FULL POTENTIAL WHILE STILL HAVING TO PAY FOR THE LOCKED-UP LAND IN FULL, IS STILL HAVING FANANCIAL IMPLICATIONS TO THIS DAY.

24 YEARS LATER OUR FAMILY SUCCESSION PLAN IS IN PROGRESS AND I AM LOOKING AT PURCHASING ANOTHER PARCEL OF LAND. THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION HAVE ONCE AGAIN STOLEN 50% OF THE VIALBLE FARM LAND FROM THIS NEW PROPERTY, TAKING AWAY OUR ABILITY TO PRODUCE A FURTHER 132,000KG OF BEEF ANNUALLY, AS WELL AS TWO PERMANENT JOBS FOR THE QLD ECONOMY.

DEVELOPMENT OF LAND TAKES TIME, MONEY AND PLANNING. IT IS ALWAYS A LONGTERM GOAL FOR FARMERS DUE TO THE EXPENSE AND LOGISTICS REQUIRED. IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS PLANNED WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS IN MIND. THERE IS NO ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE KNEE JERK REACTION POLICIES IN THIS PROCESS. THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THESE ACTS WILL BE FELT BY FARMERS, LONG AFTER THE POLITICIANS RESPONSIBLE HAVE RETIRED, AND DIED.

WE ARE ASKED TO MAKE THESE SUBMISSIONS TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE AGAINST THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. IF THE PROPONENTS OF THIS LEGISLATION DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE IMPACTS TO INDUSTRY THAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL IMPOSE, AND NEED US TO EXPALIN IT FOR THEM, THEN THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO WRITE THE LEGISLATION IN THE FIRST PLACE AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THAT ROLE. THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY HAS MANY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES WHO HAVE ALREARY EXPLAINED THE PROBLEMS THIS NEW LEGISLATION WILL CREATE, AND ALL HAVE BEEN IGNORED.

2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

BUSINESS AND FARMING SHARE THE COMMON TRAIT OF BEING FLUID AND EVER CHANGING. TO ACCOMMODATE THIS, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO ADJUST OUR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS ACCORDINGLY. THE SELF ASSESSABLE CODES PROVIDE THIS FLEXIBILITY AS REQUIRED.

ACHIEVING THESE NEEDS IN AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER, IS GREATLY COMPROMISED WHEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE INVOLVED. GOVERNMENT IS LIKE SUGAR. MORE IS NOT BETTER. HISTORY SHOWS THAT IN THE LONG TERM, REAL COMMODITY PRICES ARE STEADILY FALLING. TO COUNTER THIS LOSS IN INCOME, FARMERS HAVE TO CONSTANTLY BECOME MORE EFFICIENT, AND MAKE MORE FROM LESS. INCREASED RED TAPE DOES THE EXACT OPPOSITE TO THIS. UNLIKE GOVERNMENTS, FARMING FAMILIES ARE AROUND FOR MANY CONSECUTIVE GENERATIONS, ON THE SAME PIECE OF LAND. WHY WOULD WE CARRY OUT WORKS THAT ARE GOING TO BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE, NOW, OR IN THE FUTURE.

3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land

USING THE WORDS HIGH VALUE AND REGROWTH IN THE SAME SENTENCE IS A CONTRADICTION TO BEGIN WITH.

WE HAVE IN THE PAST HAD A Paddock OF PASTURE INCORRECTLY MAPPED AND CLASSED AS NATIVE VEGETATION. THIS COST 3 DAYS OF MY TIME, AND MUCH ANGST TO GET THE CLASSIFICATION CHANGED BACK TO ITS CORRECT STATUS. SLOPPY GOVERNMENT PROCESS, AND ERRORS, ALWAYS COST THE LANDHOLDER TO RECTIFY.

AT PRESENT THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE LEGISLATION HAS AN IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT IMPACT ON MY BUSINESS. IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MINISTERS ANNOUNCEMENT, I SIGNED A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE A FREEHOLD PROPERTY IN MY AREA. THE OFFER ON THE PROPERTY WAS BASED ON ITS CURRENT CATEGORY X VEGETATION STATUS, AND THE ASSOCIATED ABILITY TO MANAGE AND DEVELOP THE LAND. THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION HAVE TAKEN 50%, 80 HECTARES, OF THE AVAILABLE LAND ON THAT PROPERTY. THIS NOW LEAVES US WITH A CONTRACT ON A PROPERTY WHICH IS NO LONGER VIABLE.

THE PORTION OF LAND AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED CHANGES IS NOT "PRISTINE" RAIN FOREST, IT HAS ALL BEEN PREVIOUSLY CLEARED AND WAS GRAZED UP UNTIL 10 YEARS AGO. MY OBSERVATIONS ALSO SHOW THAT NOT ALL OF THE AREA CHANGED TO CATEGORY C, EVEN QUALIFIES AS REGROWTH. A REASONABLE PORTION SHOWS TO BE WOODY WEED INFESTATION.

WE HAVE CURRENTLY SPENT \$5000 ON LEGAL EXPENSES FOR THIS PROPERTY PURCHASE WHICH WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECOVER, OR ACT UPON.

THE RESULTING INABILITY TO GROW OUR BUSINESS AT THIS POINT HAS JEOPARDISED THE LONGTERM VIABILITY OF OUR FAMILY BUSINESS.

ONE IS FORCED TO QUESTION THE VALUE OF "FREEHOLD" STATUS, AND WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL RESULT IN THE DOWNGRADE OF REAL PROPERTY VALUES TO ALL LANDHOLDERS AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE.

THE TERM “REGROWTH” DESCRIBES SOMETHING THAT HAS REGROWN. IT HAS REGENERATED FROM IT’S FORMER STATE. THE VERY NATURE OF AGRICULTURE MEANS IT DOES NOT CHANGE ANY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PERMANENTLY, THAT IS WHY FARMING MANAGEMENT REQUIRES CONSTANT CONTROL OF REGROWTH, BECAUSE IT KEEPS GROWING BACK, BY ITSELF. BY COMPARISON, THE ONLY DEVELOPMENT THAT CHANGES ENVIRONMENTS PERMANENTLY IS URBAN DEVELOPMENT. THERE IS NOT A PLANT KNOWN THAT CAN REGROW THROUGH CONCRETE AND BITUMEN. DESPITE THIS, THE URBAN SPRAWL SURROUNDING BRISBANE GOES ON UNSTOPPED, YET AGRICULTURAL REGIONS ARE TARGETED TO PAY THE PRICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE, FOR THE DAMAGE CAUSED IN METROPOLITAN AREA’S. THIS IS GROSSLY WRONG.

4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.

YET AGAIN, AN UNJUSTIFIABLE LAND GRAB FOR NO APPARENT ENVIRONMENTAL, OR OTHER, GAIN. THE TOTAL AREA OF “ESSENTIAL HABITAT” AREA ON MY LAND IS 50 HECTARES, AND A FURTHER 80 HECTARES ON THE PROPERTY I AM CONTRACTED TO PURCHASE. THESE ARE CONSIDERABLE PARCELS FOR INDIVIDUAL LANDHOLDERS TO OWN AND PAY FOR, FOR THE APPARENT BENEFIT OF SOCIETY. THIS IN ON TOP OF THE ALREADY LARGE AREA IN THE WET TROPICS THAT IS UNDER NATIONAL PARKS, WORLD HERITAGE, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF “PRESERVATION”.

HOW CAN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA EVER GO FORWARD AND BE SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPED, WHEN THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT CAN’T SEE PAST A FEW URBAN GREEN VOTES, SIMPLY TO WIN THE NEXT ELECTION BECAUSE THEY DON’T HAVE THE SUBSTANCE TO WIN AN ELECTION IN THEIR OWN RITE.

I SEE NO REASON WHY I SHOULD PERSONALY HAVE TO PAY THIS PRICE, FOR YOUR POLITICAL BENEFIT PREMIER PALASZCZUK.

5. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements

IN NO OTHER INDUSTRY CAN THE GOVERNMENT RECLAIM ASSETS WITHOUT PROVIDING COMPENSATION. TO HEIGHTEN THIS FARCE, LANDHOLDERS ARE THEN STILL EXPECTED TO PAY RATES ON THE PARCEL OF LAND THAT HAS BEEN STOLEN, AND TO PAY THE MORTGAGE ON A PARCEL THAT NOW HAS ZERO COMMERCIAL VALUE FOR THE AREA LOCKED UP. AND JUST BECAUSE WE ARE EXTRA LUCKY, THE RATES IN THE CCRC ARE THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE ALREADY. WE ARE TAXED AT THE HIGHEST RATE, ON THE MOST WORTHLESS OF LAND TITLES DUE TO THIS NEW LEGISLATION.

THE GALL OF THIS LEGISLATION IS APPALLING. INDIVIDUAL LAND HOLDERS ARE BEING FORCED TO BANKROLL THE PERCIEVED PUBLIC BENENFIT OF VEGETATION RETENTION. IF THIS PROCESS IS SO BENEFICIAL TO THE GENERAL POPULATION THEN THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PURCHASING THIS LAND AT COMMERCIAL RATES FOR THE GREATER GOOD. OR BETTER STILL, THE GREEN

GROUPS THAT THINK IT'S SO VALUABLE SHOULD FUND THE PURCHASES FROM THEIR ORGANISATIONS FUNDS, AND NOT BURDEN ME AS A TAX PAYER ANY FURTHER. LET THE GREEN GROUPS PUT THEIR MONEY WHERE THEIR MOUTH IS, JUST LIKE EVERY LANDHOLDER HAS ALREADY DONE.

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IS THE REFLECTION OF THE VALUE THAT THE GENERAL POPULATION PLACES ON A PARCEL OF LAND. WHY IS IT THEN THAT LAND UNDER THIS NEW LEGISLATION HAS ZERO VALUE AND CANNOT EVEN ATTRACT A BUYER, REGARDLESS OF ANY DISCOUNT.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY THE ONLY TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECLAIMED PRIVATE PROPERTY HAS BEEN IN TIMES OF WAR. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE ARE IN THAT SITUATION NOW, SO HOW CAN THIS GOVERNMENT EXPLAIN THEIR CURRENT ACTIONS.

6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.

IT SEEMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE AND IS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR DECISIONS WHEN THEY CAN MAKE A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE LEGISLATION THAT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LIVES AND LIVELY HOOD OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, YET THERE IS NO PRESS COVERAGE TO ANNOUNCE THIS CHANGE. SURELY IF THE GOVERNMENT THOUGHT THAT THIS CHANGE WOULD GET A POSITIVE RESPONSE THEY WOULD HAVE SHOUTED IT FROM THE ROOF TOPS.

FARMERS IN THIS STATE ARE ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE FROM RISING OPERATING COSTS DUE TO RED TAPE AND BAD LEGISLATION REDUCING OUR ABILITY TO MANAGE OUR BUSINESS. THE CORE BUSINESS OF ANY LAND HOLDER IS PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FIBRE. THEY DO NOT HAVE THE TIME OR RESOURCES TO SIT IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER ALL DAY WATCHING FOR CHANGES TO LEGISLATION THAT CAN PENALISE THEM TO THE POINT OF BANKRUPTCY IF THEY INTERPRET IT INCORRECTLY, OR IF THEY ARE GOING ON INFORMATION THAT WAS GIVEN TO THEM FROM A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT 3 MONTHS IN THE PAST.

WE ENQUIRED WITH THE DNRM IN DECEMBER OF 2017 ABOUT THE PROPERTY WE WERE LOOKING TO PURCHASE, WE RECEIVED AN EMAIL STATING THE LAND WAS "CATEGORY X" AND WAS ABLE TO BE FREELY MANAGED. DUE TO THIS KNOWLEDGE, WE SIGNED THE CONTRACT IN GOOD FAITH ON THE PARCEL OF LAND ON THE 5/3/18. THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION HAS ALTERED THAT SAME LAND TO "CATEGORY C" OVERNIGHT. WE WERE NOT NOTIFIED BY THE DNRM THAT THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED IS NOW ERRONEOUS.

HOW CAN A LAND HOLDER BE PENALISED FOR FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, IF THAT SAME DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE TO INFORM THE LANDHOLDER THAT THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED, IS NOW WRONG?

IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ADDRESS EACH LANDHOLDER INDIVIDUALLY WITH DETAILS OF THE CHANGES BEING MADE TO THEIR LAND, HOW CAN THEY BE PENALISED WHEN NO NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN. IF YOUR CAR REGISTRATION IS DUE, A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT SENDS OUT A NOTIFICATION TO ADVISE YOU. IF YOUR LAND VALUATION CHANGES YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IN WRITING. WHY ARE WE NOT NOTIFIED OF CHANGES TO THE VEG MANAGEMENT LAW WHEN THE PENALTIES FOR NOT KNOWING ARE SO HIGH.

IT IS COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT INDIVIDUALS WHOSE WORK LOAD IS ALREADY FULLY ALLOCATED, TO KEEP UP WITH CONTINUAL CHANGES OF THIS NATURE, WHEN THE LEGISLATORS EMPLOY, AND EVEN CONTRACT OUT THESE CHANGES, TO LARGE TEAMS OF PEOPLE WITH NO OTHER FOCUS OR DISTRACTION. YOU THEN MAKE US LIABLE FOR PENALTY FOR BEING ON THE DOWN SIDE OF THIS INEQUITABLE EQUATION.

7. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration

WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN THE COMPROMISING POSITION OF A HAVING A SIGNED LEGAL CONTRACT TO PURCHASE A PARECL OF LAND THAT HAS 80 HECTARES RECLAIMED UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. THIS IS LAND THAT WAS GRAZED UP UNTIL 10 YEARS AGO AND OUR INTENTION WAS TO RETURN THIS LAND TO ITS FORMER USE. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR FINANACE, AND ALL OF OUR CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS NEED TO BE ALTERED TO ACCOUNT FOR THIS LOSS OF LAND AND PRODUCTION, A TOTAL OF 50% OF THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT. A PROPERTY THAT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE US A VIABLE/SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NOW HAS VERY LITTLE COMMERCIAL VALUE AT ALL.

THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUOUSLY TALKS ABOUT INCREASEING INVESTMENT IN QUEENSLAND. HOW CAN WE INVEST, WHEN THE BASE UPON WHICH WE SECURE THE INVESTMENT WITH, THE LAND, IS CONTINUALLY ERRODED, BY THE VERY GOVERNMENT THAT IS ASKING FOR THE INVESTMENT?

I FIND IT IRONIC, THAT IN THE NAME OF CONSERVATION, THE ONLY THING THAT THIS LEGISLATION CAN BRING ABOUT, IS DESTRUCTION.

DESTRUCTION OF VALUE!

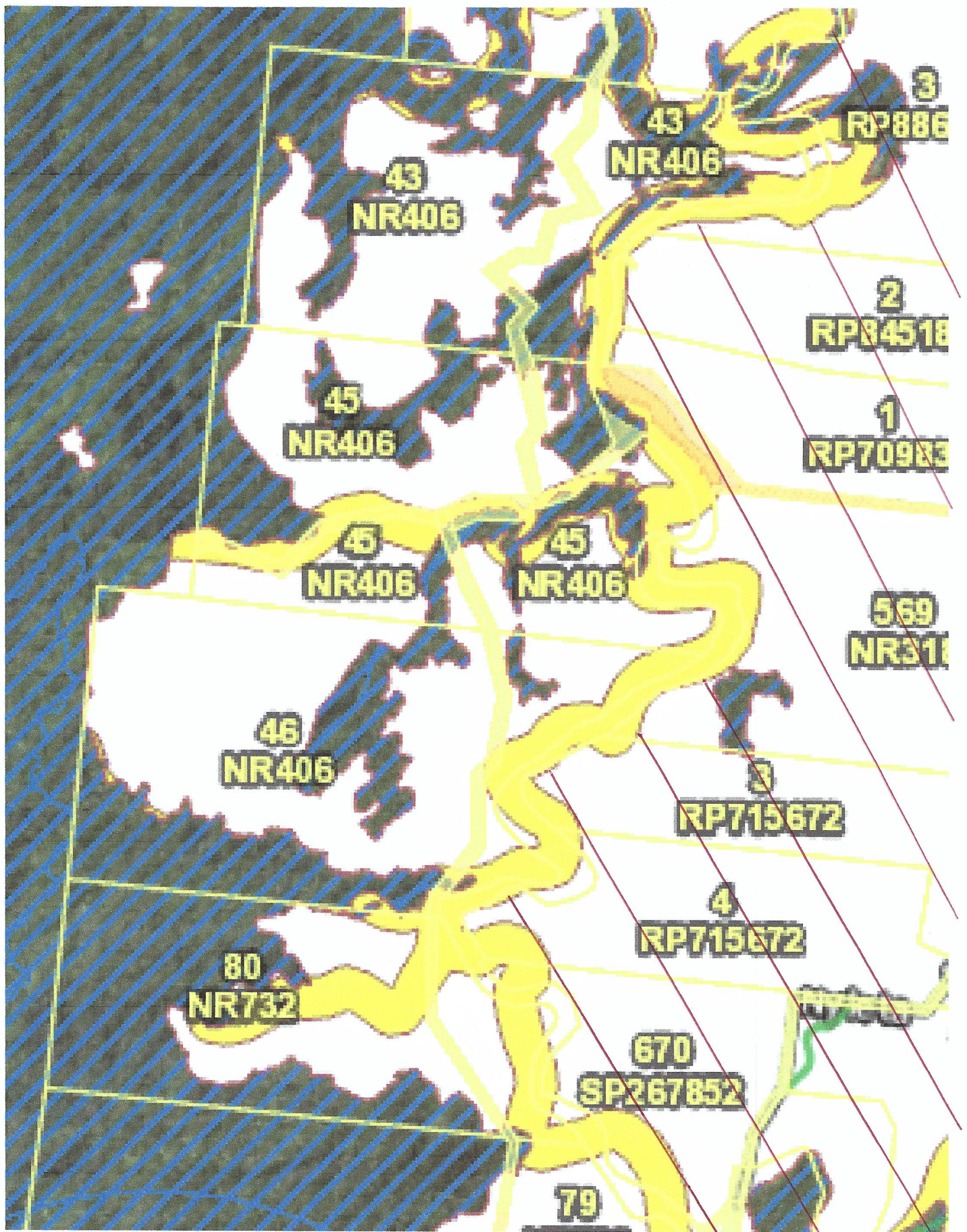
DESTRUCTION OF FARMS AND THE FAMILIES THAT RUN THEM!

DESTRUCTION OF THE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY IN REGIONAL AREAS!

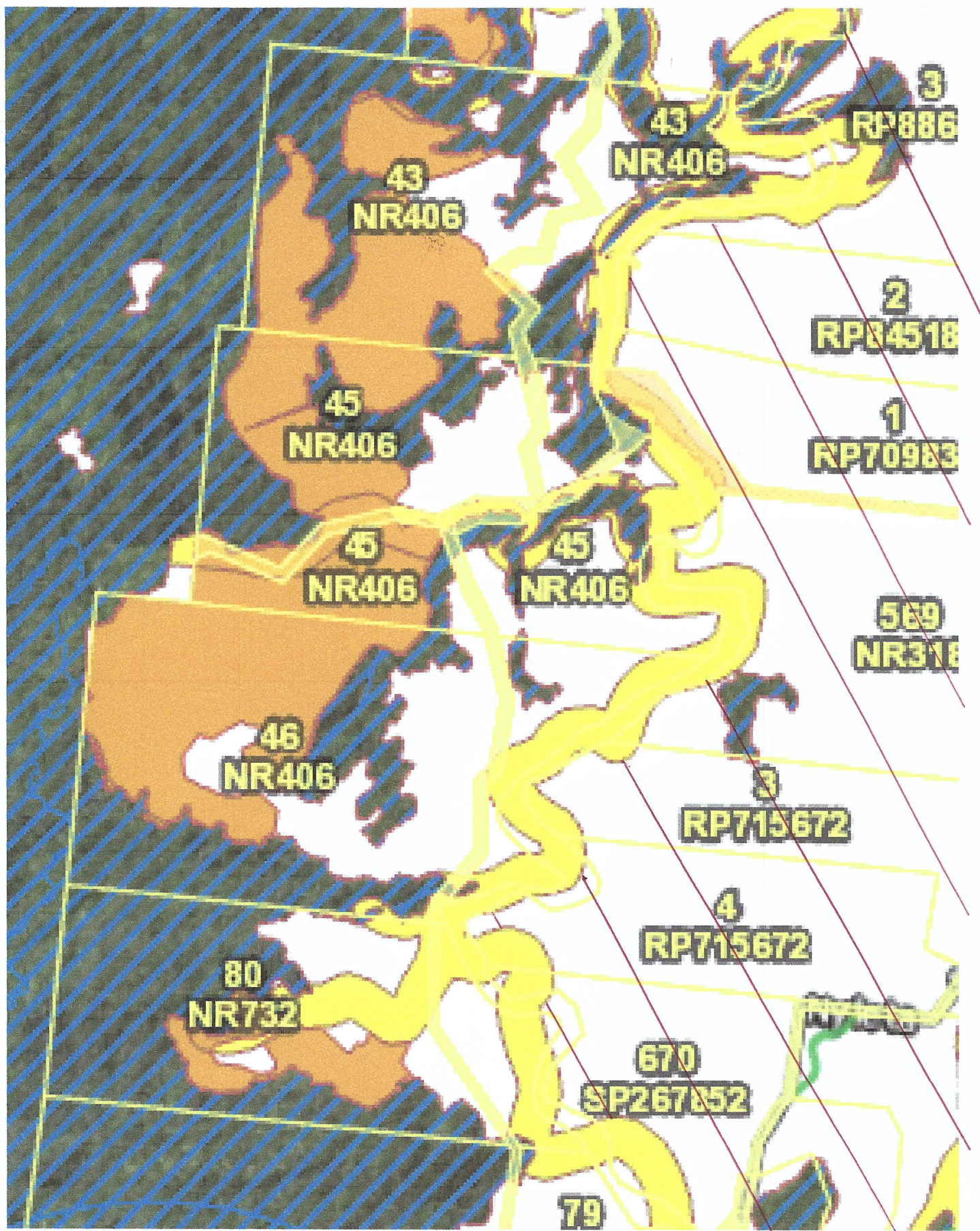
DESTRUCTION OF HOPE AND FUTURE!

THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT THESE DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE, AND CONSTANTLY QUOTES "THE QUEENSLAND HERBARIUM". HOW IS IT THEN, THAT OUTCOMES THAT THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO BE "SCIENCE BASED" IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE, TO WHAT WE AS LAND MANAGERS, SEE FOR REALITY IN THE FIELD.

Signed:	ANTHONY CALLEJA
Address:	
Date:	03-04-18



CURRENT CLASSIFICATION - "CATEGORY X"



PROPOSED CHANGES 'CATEGORY C' - ORANGE