

## SUBMISSION

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

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| <p>1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework</p>  |
| <p>The removal of High Value Agriculture (HVA) and irrigated HVA (IHVA) directly impacts on the ability of business to spread risk in their business venture. Whether this is for the ability to drought proof there cattle operation by growing fodder or a diversified income through sales of crop into domestic and international markets. Further to this halting all further intensive agricultural development also limits the ability of entire communities to develop and prosper from the jobs that these developments create. Whilst this may not seem like such a big issue you should consider comparing the community facilities say between Georgetown and Emerald? The removal of HVA and IHVA limits the development and prosperity of business owners and regions in North West Queensland much more severely than central and south eastern agriculture regions as there timber was cleared long ago to make way for development. We would like to have the same opportunity to develop our regions as they have had in the past. This can be done in a sustainable manner under the current legislation instead of completely removing the option / opportunity.</p> |
| <p>2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes</p>  |
| <p>Self-assessable codes are fundamental in streamlining property management. With the ability and oversight of today's technology, for instance satellite mapping, resolution and SLATS reports. These issues can be easily monitored without adding additional complications and paperwork to what we currently have. These codes should not be further restricted than they currently already are as they are an important tool for allowing sustainable property management.</p>   |
| <p>3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land</p>  |
| <p>Just because land has not been cleared in the last 15 years does not mean the government should have the right to strip this land from landholders. This is only limiting development opportunities in the future for effected landholders who may even already have plans for that land.</p>   |
| <p>4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.</p>   |
| <p>The proposed changes could have significant impacts on larger region wide economic developments such as agriculture and dam development proposals. This is especially the case for some areas in North and North-West Queensland that already have agricultural precinct proposals put forward. These areas should be allowed to develop similar to areas in Southern Queensland so</p>   |

that our local communities can thrive and grow as many communities from agricultural areas in Central and Southern Queensland have done so.

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

Many graziers / farmers are small business owner operators and as such should be entitled to fair and equitable compensation for loss incurred by government policy changes that impact their ability to remain a viable business.

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

In my experience it is usually mapping provided from government agencies that is lacking in regards to tree clearing extents, buffers and other areas that can or cannot be cleared or managed. This needs to be rectified before any changes to penalty units should be considered.

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

It is essential that areas in Northern Australia are given the ability to clear timber and manage regrowth so that our regions can be developed as has happened in Southern parts of Queensland. The current legislation currently allows for this to happen in a sustainable manner and should be left in place.

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| Signed:  | <i>K W Fung</i>   |
| Address: |                   |
| Date:    | <i>22/03/2018</i> |