

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

Farmers are Ambassadors for the Agricultural Industry by owning and advancing our properties and businesses with sustainable management practises to enable them to be passed on to our future generations.

If these changes come into effect, for us as farmers, it will stifle production and discourage any investments made to drought proof our properties for their sustainable long term future.

By not allowing us to maintain or improve production levels, this in return will ultimately limit profits made reflecting in less expenditure in local communities and businesses and resulting in lost revenue collected for the government as less taxes will be paid. As a result there will be higher unemployment as farmers will not have the need to employ staff for improvements and again the Government having to pay out more unemployment benefits.

As a concerned farmer, please reconsider implementing these changes as they will affect more than just the Agricultural Industry but all Small Business and Rural Community structures in the Bush.

Signed:

Kristen Hicks

Date:

21/03/2018