

From: [REDACTED]
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to vegetation management.
Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018 11:18:58 AM

Dear Sir/ Madam

I would like to put forth my objection to the proposed changes to vegetation management laws.

My husband and I are 5th generation cattle graziers so have a long, in-depth and hands on knowledge of every aspect of raising cattle and managing our land. We have talked long and hard with our parents and grandparents, great aunts and great uncles about the changes in environmental issues and practices. Old vs the new. Great changes have happened over the last 50 years with more and more farmers realising that what once was acceptable does not work and have changed their way of doing things to suit. Many of us have gone to seminars and field days, taken on what the government departments have researched and studied. Talked to our neighbours and colleagues, bouncing idea's, successes and failures with each other. Proven some things right and some things not quite as practical as first thought but one thing that we can all agree on is that not managing our land with careful thought and consideration of many factors is quite frankly a disaster. We have proven time again that a well managed property is a benefit not only to the environment but also to the hip pocket.

We managed a cattle station west of Townsville for nearly 14 years. When we first arrived there had been nothing done in land improvements for many many many years. 70 000 acres of declared weeds, erosion was out of control, native grasses almost completely depleted. No new tree growth, bare dirt of <20% ground coverage. The place was an environmental disaster. 12 years later with lots of hard work we went through a dellabessie agreement to renew our pastoral lease. We received accolades from the university who conducted the flora and fauna studies. We received accolades from DAFF for our over all environmental management. It was a very proud time for us. The hard work and money had been well spent.

All this was due to proper and careful Vegetation Management. Management that included selective tree clearing. The ratio of mature trees to saplings and young trees was rebalanced. The native grasses and ground cover regenerated and reclaimed area's of bare dirt and minimal ground coverage. River bank and creek bank erosion controlled due to careful management of riparian area's. Noxious weeds not completely eradicated but definitely confined and well under control. But none of this would have been possible if we had not been able to carefully and selectively clear tree's.

The ongoing benefits included a higher stocking rate of livestock and with careful management of stock numbers virtually drought proofing the property. A healthy river system that had the university doing studies in our river. The land value increasing from the land owner being unable to sell the property for \$2m to being offered \$8m. All because we selectively cleared tree's. We did not 100% clear every tree. We did not rape and pillage the land as portrayed by many as wha farmers do on a daily basis. We carefully and selectively cleared trees. Of course there were a few other steps taken but the first and foremost was selectively clearing the trees. We are now on a property at Hughenden where the previous owner applied and was granted permission to clear land. The differences are astounding. Standing scrub of old Gidgee forest has no ground cover, no new seedling trees no young trees just a tangled mess of dead and dying, stunted old growth. Nothing at all under the canopies other than dead timber. No new growth, no shrubs no herbage, no grass. Just rocks and gravel. However where it has been cleared, before the rain- 70% ground cover, now since having rain 100% groundcover. Native shrubs, herbage and grasses. Even a few tree seedlings have sprung up. All because of tree clearing. Trees are a living thing. They regenerate and regrow. I guess what I am trying to say is that you don't have to look very far to see the benefits of tree clearing when it's done right.

Please listen to the voice of reason. Listen to what people on the ground who deal with the environment every day are telling you from hands on experience. Farmers are the hands on, unpaid carers of the environment of your state. We are making money for the state coffers with our productivity and with the proposed tree clearing laws this productivity will decline. Your state forests and national parks will not make you more money or be better looked after than a good farmer on his own property.

Thank you
Tammy Cross

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]