

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.



By these new changes being instigated it will make the upkeep and development of our properties harder and un economical. As a fourth generation grazier my family and I have seen it become harder and harder to make a comfortable living off the land we own and love. This has not come from natural disasters and climate change as many commentators and politicians claim, but from the continued increase in taxes, running costs and red and green tape. Most business in western Queensland are running with half the permanent staff compared to 30 years ago, which intern has had a negative effect on the small towns which service the rural sector, with many families forced to move away.

By the introduction of these new Vegetation Management Laws it will make it harder and very expensive to control new growth in semi open timbered country and regrowth in certain areas. This work was traditionally done by fire, but since settlement this has largely been controlled and these laws also prohibit the use of it. Without this thinning, areas of land become feral pest havens and as the timber thickens the country will become useless with the trees chocking out pastures and unbalancing natural ecosystems. The pest havens then intern hamper greatly the ability to run a profitable enterprise through stock losses and maiming, caused by Wild Dogs and feral pigs which thrive in these areas. These pests also have a devastating effect on native animals and plants. On our property we have seen whole Koala populations disappear not through excessive clearing but because of the explosion in wild dog numbers and disease. As a grazier I am also a conservationist and don't want to see my families land degraded and eroded through mismanagement and excessive clearing, but I also know that some clearing is required to ensure we have healthy ecosystems and healthy pastures to enable a stress free environment for the animals that both graze and coexist on our property. To make the thinning and clearing viable we need laws and guide lines which allow these practises to be undertaken in an efficient cost effective way, not made so complicated that it will become impossible to navigate and afford.

I therefore call on the Queensland Government to show leadership on this issue and work with farmers and graziers to come to a sensible and economically viable position that we can all agree on. The uncertainty caused by the constant and frequent changes to legislation is detrimental to the environment and the businesses producing the food for the nation.

Regards

Fred Bryant

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	22/3/18