

Peter Barnes



31/3/2018

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

I would like to strongly protest about the proposed changes to Vegetation Management Laws

My wife & I have a property in the Gladstone Region. We purchased this property 11 years ago to breed cattle after selling our farm in South Australia. Two years ago we purchased acres neighbouring us to make our business more viable and so we can manage more cattle over time. Now if we farmers did not care about our land and how we managed it we would not have got into more debt for more land we would have just applied to knock down as much scrub as we could while it was apparently so easy!

The current legislation is strong in its current form; we can not clear land in coloured zones without applying to the department to do so. There is no need to change it and I am sick of not knowing what the future holds at every election.

It is said that the tree clearing rates increased in the last couple of years and I believe a lot could be because of the governments planned legislation. We have cleared in our category X areas due to the fact that these regrowth areas may be taken back from us. It is not hard to grow a tree in our climate, regrowth is profuse and is a full time job tackling suckers.

The PMAVs are not easy to understand and do not have GPS points on them. They are not always correct but it is our expense to have the department come to the property to actually have a look at their mistakes. Every time we go to do anything on the property we get the maps out and study them but still become confused about exactly where an area is zoned and end up leaving another buffer in fear of getting it wrong but with the proposal to again remove the 'mistake of fact' (s.24 of the Criminal Code) as a defence for a vegetation clearing offence we will probably not be game enough to do anything.

We actually purchased our property knowing we have some areas that we would never plan to clear as we wanted to enjoy the diversity that we have in our block of land. We are not looking to clear our property we are looking to be able to manage our asset and our future.

We have invested so much into our property and if this legislation does go through I well believe our property will drop in value significantly due to the loss of the rights of the landowner to control what they do with their land. I am deeply concerned for our future.

Yours Sincerely,
Peter Barnes

