

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.

With government telling us that we need to increase food and fibre production, changing the tree clearing laws and regulations every few ^{years} negatively impacts our future development and viability of our business. Selective thinning of trees and regrowth results in greater grass coverage and therefore less erosion. Where there is thick undergrowth on my property there is virtually no grass coverage. However, areas that are thinned or cleared have thick grass coverage and less erosion. By bringing in these laws it reduces our ability to increase production and lessen erosion. The future of our enterprise hinges on our ability to manage trees without stringent regulations that are to be forced upon us.

Signed:

Address:

Date:

22-03-18


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