

Lambton Grazing Co


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

Dear Committee

RE: Submission on Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

I strongly disagree with any changes to the laws of the Vegetation Management Act as they are unvalidated, unwarranted and a step closer to the removal of agricultural production in Queensland. There is no doubt that submissions will come in from environmental lobby groups claiming that there is nothing but excessive land clearing occurring in the state of Queensland. One such lobby group has been emailing me with dramatic statements of more than 1 million hectares have been cleared in the state of Queensland. This would show it's true relevance if they actually mentioned that the size of Queensland is 172 700 000 hectares. Land holders in the last five years have cleared 0.579%, just over half of 1%ⁱⁱⁱ. There is no categorisation of the clearing in the statement.

- How much was regrowth that had rejuvenated itself to an overly thickened state and reducing ground cover?
- How much was cleared for fodder harvesting.?
- How much was cleared for real estate development?

The next dramatic shock statement, is that this is the equivalent of 1000 bulldozers marching side by side from the New South Wales border the tip of Cape York, killing 46 million animals accompanied by a photo of a bulldozer and scrub chain. This implies that graziers across the state are nothing more than environmental rapists destroying everything in our path. 46 million dead animals. The algorithm that calculated that figure must be incredible. Truth is there wouldn't be a scientific report to back up any of this statement. Lies and misleading statements by lobby groups holding the highest of moral cards. This is how they save the world. Not with science, truth and relevance and an understanding of Mother Nature, but with deception.

In the grazing industry we have been more than a little naïve in believing there could be common ground between the two groups. This could not be further from the truth. Environmental lobby groups are set on the total obliterations of graziers and their communities beyond any urban limits. The urban dwellers have been naïve in assuming that these lobby groups are always telling the truth. Naivety can be a good thing. It brings innocence and humility to the table. Unfortunately it can also lead to stupidity.

These new proposals only further drive the wedge between urban and rural communities. Brisbane at the moment can be a case in point. The river encroachment that is occurring along Kingsford Smith Drive adding extra traffic lanes is an example. Urban development allows for building in to the rivers to enhance city commuting but if I wish to clear and develop beside a river in the bush the answer is certainly not. One rule for us and one rule for them.

Every group of submissions will have differing sides, facts and figures. However there is a very real personal and human cost with every set of law changes. The Vegetation Management Act has impacted and affects not just my life but my family's immensely. It has increased our debt, degenerated our land, limits our productivity and viability as a sustainable grazing enterprise. These changes to the act are unnecessary and will not appease Environmental lobby groups. Land management needs to be based on science not emotion

Yours sincerely
Andrew Rea



ⁱ www.queensland.gov.au/statistics and facts

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