



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

## **Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018**

QMDC agrees with the need for government intervention to manage tree clearing. With regard to outcomes, however, there needs to be a balance between agriculture, resource sector development, residential expansion and ecological services. Our hope is that the legislative changes will help achieve the vegetation management targets prescribed in our regional NRM plan.

The impact of vegetation management regulations on individual farmers should not be dismissed and we would like to see greater clarity regarding the vegetation/ carbon fund arrangements proposed during the last election. Specifically, how will these arrangements assist impacted properties?

QMDC believes that the regulatory architecture should focus on achieving positive biodiversity outcomes. To this end, there could be a specific regulation that allows for vegetation 'trading' based on the no-net-loss concept. Thus landholders could undertake some tree clearing, if the equivalent in vegetation or biodiversity values were retained or reinstated. This would allow for some flexibility in the implementation of the regulations

QMDC recommends a significant investment in land manager education and extension concerned with vegetation planning and proactive compliance to ensure the community can meet their obligations under the new regulations

QMDC proposes that during this term of government, greater prominence be given to the concept of regional vegetation plans. We believe regulated vegetation management should be tailored to specific regional characteristics so that the negative impacts of state-wide (generic) vegetation codes are minimised.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Geoff Penton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee