

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.

My small property would be over run by black wattle if I did not take measures to control the regrowth. In areas of regrowth (where I cannot get my 4 wheeler as it is too dense) other noxious weeds like cactus and boxthorn take over the understorey. Both of these weeds spread by seeds and fruit that birds like to eat. Add the cover of wattle and we will have a huge problem that will impact my ability to graze my own land. The other pests in this area are rabbits who also love the cover and soft soils under wattle. How on earth will we be able to rip warrens now that biological controls have proven ineffective.

At some point the government should trust our farmers.

We don't want to cause erosion nor rape our land of it's precious nutrients. Most us want to pass on our farms to our family. We would be foolish to cause irreversible damage like tunnel erosion (rabbits) or over run paddocks of rubbish weeds and so called native regrowth.

Signed:	<i>F. Bellgrove</i>
Address:	[REDACTED]
Date:	<i>22.03.18</i>