

Reason for confidentiality:

SUBMISSION

In providing this submission I refer directly to the key provisions of the legislation which may be amended.

1. Removing High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework

The Removal of High Value Agriculture and Irrigated High Value Agriculture from the Vegetation Management Framework will not only effect those whose production is solely agriculture based but across the rural industry as a whole . Within our local area we have family's which are solely based on agriculture production and with the demand of grain and produce from these family's it has enabled them the potential to further build on their business and grow be able to meet supply demands.

With the proposed restrictions placed on these businesses ie. Being unable to further develop areas to increase production, it will effect producers such as ourselves throughout drier times as the required supplements and rations required will become uneconomical to purchase due to these people being unable to keep up with demand.

Eventually there will also be social effects with the inability for these family's to continue growing to be able to cater for succession within their familys . This eventually effecting numbers through the local schools and growth through out the community.

2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

The self-assessable codes enable us the ability to control, manage and improve areas through out our property when time and finances permit. As small scale landholders we can only plan in our mangement practices to control and maintain small areas of regrowth at a time, due to time and finance restrictions. With these codes in place we are easier able to prioritise the areas of eccessive weed infestaion, and areas where grass cover has being inundated by regrowth, and then work within our finances to appropriatley manage and improve these areas.

The removal of this code will create an extra burden in the process of being able to carry out these nesessary improvements. ie. In order to be able to move forward with production and sustain a good environment on our property , outside work is undertaken to fund these excersises. Having a further application and fees in place will effect our ability to continue doing this in a sustainable manar and the value and amount of grass cover will significantly be reduced.

3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous landith

The proposed inclusion of the Category C areas over our property are covering areas and pockets of which are far more value as improved grass cover then the regrowth and woody weed infestation of which they are and will become. As a young producer these are definity areas of which were a total nesessity to improve with time and finances permitting. At current within the

proposed Category C on our property there is a level of high category introduced weeds ie. Giant Rats Tail Grass, Rubbervine and Lantana. Without the ability to control regrowth over these areas the native and palatable grasses will be lost , potential for erosion will be increased and the ability to maintain production off these areas will be lost.

4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.

There has been an area of essential habitat expanded on our property which we would deem as an unnecessary addition to an already abundantly sustained water catchment area. The proposed Category R watercourse areas are currently well maintained from the risk of erosion and do not reflect any habitat area unlike other areas already mapped on our property. Once again this is further expanding an area of unnecessary red tape over our property of where to date there has always been a well balanced ecosystem of which we have managed in a practical and common sense way, Along with the further introduction of high value regrowth and Category R areas over our property we will potentially lose another 10 – 15 percent of our productive area. This percentage is of a large scale considering we only currently utilise approx 40 percent of our property due to Category c , Remnant Vegetation and waterways .

5. That no compensation will be payable to landholders subject to added layers of regulation – high value regrowth, regrowth watercourses and essential habitat during transitional arrangements

The addition of these layers over our property are to have a significant dollar value impact if introduced, quite adverse to the potential of value adding in long term good management and sustainable grazing practices. With the inability to sustain and improve these areas mapped on our property, Value per hectare will be significantly reduced and production will be reduced . This will effect our family to grow as a business and provide a succession opportunity in later years, and also effect local economics with the lowering of our land value due to restrictions. Ultimately, the layers which will be introduced over the proposed areas on our property, cover light soil types which will only accommodate to undesired weed and pest infestation, and create areas of poor ground cover , posing an added risk of erosion and land degradation. Significantly reducing the dollar value per hectare as a whole.

6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.

There is a level of bias approach and unfairness being imposed upon farmers which does only appear to be growing, For Generations the majority of rural producers have had good land management practices passed onto them from predecessors and an awareness created that, without good practices and sustainable management in place, land degradation occurs and production short term and long term suffers. It would appear that the majority of parliament have not recognised the benefits achieved to our ecosystem by many of our farmers and are instead only scrutinised and delivered with further hurdles to overcome. The introduction of these laws are taking away the ownership, freedom and responsibility of which farmers have worked hard to achieve.

7. Other matters relevant to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that the review committee should consider appropriate and worth some consideration

With these amendments being introduced the long term financial effect it will have on our enterprise will be very significant.

- The restrictions potentially imposed on the ability to improve our pasture/property will result in a loss of production, productive growth, with the inability to value-add to the property also posing a retardant on future growth.

Also with these amendments introduced the long term effect to the land eco quality in this instance will also be degrading.

- At Current we maintain a good grass cover to counteract the noxious weeds introduced to the area by feral animals. The maintaining of encroaching regrowth enables us access to have a positive control of undesired species of grass and weeds to the area, further degrading our property and ecosystem if left untreated. These practices also enable good pasture cover providing productivity and a good eco balance through out.

With the utilization of self assessable codes it gives us the ability to maintain a good focus and goals in what we want for the future of our property and for the future of our successors. Education and Common sense approaches have enabled us to maintain a viable and environmentally friendly approach in what we do to date.

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	21/3/18

some consideration

Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 No 642

With these amendments being introduced the long term financial effect it will have on our enterprise will be very significant.

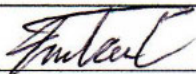
- The restrictions potentially imposed on the ability to improve our pasture/ property will result in a loss of production, productive growth, with the inability to value-add to the property also posing a retardant on future growth.

Also with these amendments introduced the long term effect to the land eco quality in this instance will also be degrading.

- At Current we maintain a good grass cover to counteract the noxious weeds introduced to the area by feral animals. The maintaining of encroaching regrowth enables us access to have a positive control of undesired species of grass and weeds to the area, further degrading our property and ecosystem if left untreated. These practices also enable good pasture cover providing productivity and a good eco balance through out.

With the utilization of self assessable codes it gives us the ability to maintain a good focus and goals in what we want for the future of our property and for the future of our successors. Education and Common sense approaches have enabled us to maintain a viable and environmentally friendly approach in what we do to date.

Signed:



Address:

Date:

21/3/18