

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.

These changes will reduce productivity in agricultural land.

Agricultural produce and exports are an important part of the Australian economy and any measures to reduce the productivity of agricultural land in Australia will have a negative effect on the Australian economy.

Restrictions placed on vegetation management discourage investment in rural property which in turn reduces the marketability of that land and therefore its capital growth.

Vegetation management is specific and unique for every rural property. Timeliness in vegetation control is important to ensure effective treatment is carried out at opportune times. Missing the opportunity to thin or manage regrowth can cause a reduction in productivity for many years.

It is vital to manage vegetation when the season, and time of year is right, to minimise loss of pasture growth and soil moisture. Thickening vegetation has enormous negative effects on pasture growth and therefore productivity.

MANAGEMENT OF VEGETATION THICKENING AND REGROWTH CONTROL IS A PART OF GOOD GRASS AND FOREST MANAGEMENT BY GOOD AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES. THESE BUSINESSES MUST BE ABLE TO MANAGE THEIR KEY PRODUCTIVITY DRIVERS IE. GRASS PRODUCTION.

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| Signed: | Edward Bassett |
| Address: | |
| Date: | 22/3/2018 |