

We provide a submission to the Vegetation and Management Bill recently introduced by the Labour Government, 2018.

These proposed laws will make it so much harder for farmers and graziers to do their job, which is to provide food and fibre.

These laws do not seem to have any more environmental benefits than previous laws but make the regulatory burden on landholders nigh on impossible to implement whilst trying to maintain our livelihood.

These laws seem more intent on demonising farmers and graziers and to appease and shore up the Green and Environmental vote.

The Bill potentially breaches fundamental legislative principals of fairness and does not have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of landholders, and consequently should not affect rights and liberties or impose obligations that have major detrimental implications to the viability and sustainability of the landholder.

Most concern to us in this area, north west Qld, are the upgraded regulations to thinning and encroachment.

The boree, gidgee and associated species are marching across valuable Mitchell grass Downs and we must have workable self assessable codes to combat this woody thickening and encroachment on our precious grasslands.

Increased tree density decreases grass production which:

- Decreases carrying capacity which has a financial impact.
- Increases the environmental damage after rain and promotes soil erosion.

Workable self assessable codes are needed to ensure trees and grass stay in balance, feed animals and avoid land degradation.

If the burden of these laws and regulations are to be placed on landholders by the broader community fair and equitable compensation should be paid for the loss of production and land values. The effects of these proposed changes won't just be felt this year it will continue for the next 5, 10, 25 years into the next generation as the regrowth and thickening of vegetation will cause damage to the environment and the viability and sustainability of landholders.

We fully support submissions made by Agforce and PRA

Ashley Smith



Jean Smith



Chelsea Smith



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