

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.

Most importantly if people arent allowed to cut or push scrub for fodder in times of drought it will affect their enterprises greatly because they will have to try to find adjustment which is not always available or sell their stock cheaply and then have to pay big money for more when the drought ends Feeding hay and cottonseed is just not economical at all for an extended period of time.I know of several people who have had to leave the land because of extended periods of drought feeding I know of one place where there is still much mulga growing and there are old stumps there where the mulga trees were cut in the 1900's.

This will certainly discourage investment as the value of the places will drop enormously overnight. Communities will suffer as people will have to walk off their places overnight. Towns will become ghost towns very quickly. Due to the land surrounding them becoming total scrub where the odd kangaroo or wallabye might roam and that is about all if the dingoes don't kill them all.

Much mulga has been cut or pushed and even when the fallen timber is burnt the young mulga grows back.

When some mulga is thinned more grass grows which encourages more production to feed the increasing population. Graziers have been managing their properties for decades and there is still much timber growing. Surely this shows they are capable of managing their land.

Signed:	C.J.Lee
Address:	
Date:	21 st March, 2018