

## SUBMISSION

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

<p><b>1. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes</b></p>
<p>Science-based self-assessable codes help farmers carry out the routine vegetation management practices necessary to sustainably produce food and fibre.</p> <p>The self-assessable codes help farmers ensure trees and grass stay in balance, avoid soil erosion and feed animals in drought. Farmers are not required to obtain permits for work done under the self-assessable codes, but they are required to notify the Queensland Government.</p> <p>These Self-Assessable codes have reduced the cost and time taken to make applications for managing vegetation on our property. If the Self-assessable codes were taken away and we were required to undertake a development assessment and approval to do the same activity this would limit our ability to effectively manage our property and livestock due to increased time spent on administration tasks, in turn having negative impacts on both environmental and financial outcomes.</p>
<p><b>2. 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</b></p>
<p>The issue of compensation arises with the addition of these layers, where is the recompense for Queensland farmers and what is the estimated dollar value of these layers?</p> <p>The farming communities are expected to bear the costs associated with the government satisfying their commitments to other political parties and treaties. The question arises whether land developers in metropolitan areas that are removing vegetation for housing or infrastructure are required to oblige to the same standards that agricultural businesses are. It would appear that the agricultural sector is unfortunately being required to carry the burden of “ off setting “ any vegetation that is cleared by these other industries.</p>

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

The introduction of the Bill has the potential to dramatically affect rural communities. Farming businesses are the life blood of many of these towns in Queensland as other industries are reliant on them. For example, machinery sales and dealerships would financially suffer from the introduction of these proposed laws as demand for these goods and services would be significantly reduced. In turn these businesses would make staff redundant, increasing unemployment in these particular regions. The next affect is that people will be forced to leave rural communities as there are limited employment opportunities, taking with them their families to more metropolitan areas. The next link in this chain to come under pressure is the schools in these areas as they will suffer a reduction in the number of enrolments, in turn reducing their funding and the level of education that they can provide for the remaining students.

Other small businesses in these towns then suffer as there are less consumers to create demand for goods and services. An example of this is the local hairdresser being forced to reduce staff or even cease business. This has the potential to create a community dependant on welfare, also creating another problem for the government by increasing the cost of welfare payments. In general this bill has the potential to exterminate rural communities. Rural communities require government policy that promotes a vibrant agricultural sector as one of the main pillars of the economy.

In my experience land owners and managers are conservationists and will only make decisions that will have positive environmental outcomes as they care about their land and take great pride in improving it's condition. As a landowner there is nothing more rewarding than being able to appreciate a landscape that is in balance, and provides both positive environmental and financial outcomes.

I am proud to be a fourth generation farmer on our existing land parcels. The reason that we are still able to farm on these areas is because responsible, sustainable land management methods have been practiced over generations of our family ensuring that the land is able to produce food, and timber for future family members to carry on an agricultural enterprise and to support local economies.

Signed:	Ben Drynan
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