

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

Under the previous High Value agriculture framework we have developed under permit SDA-0314-008806 a total of 560Ha of arable land for the production of grain crops.

In preparing the application for this permit all avenues were assessed including Return on investment with return (on investment) on cropping in our region being 43% higher than return on breeding beef cattle.

With a constantly variable environment and unpredictable seasons, cropping enterprises offer us an opportunity to capitalise on wet seasons and reduce expenditure to a sustainable level in dry seasons. Whereas our livestock enterprise is much more susceptible to dry season in that we either have to make the decision to reduce stocking number in turn reducing potential income or feed stock on hand increasing costs in a low return environment.

With the removal of High Value Agriculture development permits it removes the opportunity for us to further drought proof our business as well as being able to increase our business size to pass onto our children.

The ability to use HVA gave us an opportunity to sustainably manage our land while also increasing our contribution to our society.

Currently we employ 3 staff who predominantly spend there time in the cropping side of our operation without high value agriculture we would not be able to employ these people. Our future vision was to expand and offer more job opportunities to people in our community.

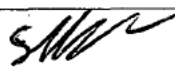
Indirectly the production of grain on Avenel contributes to many jobs and businesses locally, including mechanics, electricians, grain traders, fuel suppliers and retail outlets just to name a few.

High value ag permit applications took into account wildlife corridors, sustainability, and a sustainable natural ecosystem. Personally I believe that our farming operation is more environmentally friendly than open grazing. All development has been planned and assessed to maximise biodiversity and production in harmony.

2. Retaining Self-Assessable Codes

Although self-assessable codes do not directly relate to our business I do see that they were an effective and important way for land owners to be able to manage their land for future generation while still being able to generate and income contributing to our local, state and

federal economies.
3. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land
No Comment
4. Increasing Category R regrowth watercourse vegetation to include additional catchments in the Burnett Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef Catchments.
Not Applicable
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
If rules are going to be changed it would only be fair that compensation be paid. If you purchase any asset and someone changes its value or return through no decision of your own it is only fair that you be compensated.
6. Increasing compliance measures and penalties under vegetation management laws.
<p>Primary production is a difficult enough industry without handing down harsh penalties to farmers.</p> <p>I am not saying that people who do not follow the rules should go forth unpenalised but penalties must suit the crime and not be a figure by red tape.</p>
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
<p>I am a farmer because I love the land, I love working with the land and I hope to be able to pass that connection and satisfaction down to my children.</p> <p>If legislation is put upon us preventing us to manage the land in the best way we know how then I cannot see a future in Agriculture for our children.</p> <p>Personally I feel that Australia produces the best food and fibre in the world with the heart of it being in Queensland. Please don't take that away from us.</p> <p>Work with us to employ this state, feed this state, and develop this state in a sustainable, environmentally balance and economic way.</p>

Signed:	
Address:	
Date:	21-3-2018