

## 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.

**A great deal of time was spent developing a sustainable thinning code, then department staff spent equally as long in explaining it to graziers and contractors, all for what?**

**The landscape in our region (western area of the brigalow belt) has thickened over time esp with under shrubs which aren't always part of the local ecosystem eg false sandlewood. The previous thinning guidelines were sustainable for the ecosystem and production but now this land will thicken to the point of no grass cover therefore causing erosion and unproductive land.**

**My husband and I are in our 50s, spent all our married life here starting as managers then gradually buying out our partners. During this time, half of the property has been strategically cleared with shade strips left and even when broadscale clearing was allowed, high value vegetation was left untouched. We have educated ourselves in better grazing systems and are proud of what we have achieved economically and environmentally. One of my many concerns now is land that has been thinned under previous guidelines, will not be able to be managed to keep regrowth at a sustainable level therefore causing Workplace Safety issues when mustering stock and also Animal Welfare issues where the said stock are grazing this country. Also uncleared land will thicken to beyond a healthy ecosystem.**

**Our daughter and son in law wish to come into business with us but unless our property remains viable that will not be possible. With the aging population in the bush, we need the younger generation to return to family farms to inject new ideas and help keep small towns alive. Already the store in Morven has closed due to reduced income in the area from our ongoing drought,**

What else will close if surrounding stations become unviable and there are no employment opportunities left. Since our daughter attended the local primary school, the number of students has halved, where to next. Will there be a school for her children?

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission and sorry it is disjointed but I am passionate about rural Qld . The majority of family farms are well managed and families are the backbone of rural areas. These proposed laws over time will severely impact on the economic viability of many properties and as many of these same properties have been in drought for 5 years, this could be the final blow not just for the station owners but the surrounding towns as well. We can't all live on the coast as our food and fibre can't be grown on cement!!

Signed:	<i>E. Mackenzie</i>
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