

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

Background

- **High value agriculture and irrigated high value agriculture refers to cropping.**
- **This change will take away the ability of land holders to clear small areas of land to develop farms.**

The removal of High Value Agriculture (HVA) and irrigated HVA (IHVA) affects farmers in regions differently, with those in the north particularly hard hit. Throughout northern Queensland energy and protein become limiting in cattle diets during the dry season and this can cause farmers issues with stock survival and welfare through years of drought. HVA and IHVA permits have provided farmers in northern Queensland with the opportunity to grow fodder and grain for supplementing in the dry season and finishing off stock for market. This helps to ensure a more consistent supply of our product.

Our family run Cattle & Hay property already has an established 120 acres of irrigated land which we grow fodder for hay production. By doing this, we not only have the ability to partly drought proof our own cattle breeding business but also assist other cattle producers to be able to drought feed their stock. We have long term plans to expand our IHVA to assist in succession planning to enable us to bring in our two son's and their families into our operation. Expansion will also ensure we could totally drought proof our property. By removal the ability for us to expand our business these new laws will stunt any growth we have planned long term for our family run business.

Without expansion many producers will no longer be sustainable.

This in turn limits growth as a whole to provide food & fibre for Australia (as a growing Nation) plus exporting our products to the rest of the world.

2. Including High Value Regrowth as an additional layer of regulation under the Vegetation Management Framework on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land

Background

The re-inclusion of High Value Regrowth (HVR) as an additional layer of regulation on leasehold, freehold and indigenous land is an overt grab by Queensland Government in search of targets for meeting international treaties such as the Paris Protocol. In 2009 when initially introduced, this HVR layer was prepared hastily in a 'desk-top' mapping exercise with associated errors including areas of non-native vegetation (such as orchards) and bare earth.

The Government is essentially adding an extra regulation over FREEHOLD/indigenous land - do we tell people who live in the city they cannot remove a tree to put in a pool, a new pavement or shed in their backyard?

If the re-inclusion of HVR layer is added to our property it will lessen our ability to graze our land to its full potential. We have regrowth that needs addressing, but as we have only owned this property for 20 months have not had the chance to deal with the regrowth. Once again this will impact on our plans to develop our property to its full potential! What compensation will be offered to producers if this goes through?

3. 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

Why will no compensation be made available to producers due to eventual loss of income over regulation changes? If our ability to run our business to its full potential is taken away from us, surely we should receive compensation?

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

Farmers/Producers if given the chance are the best carers of the land they own! If we do not look after the land, it will not give us the return required to make a living. Self-Assessable Codes have been very useful and more cost effective than lodging applications and help us with the high level of care and high standard of environmental standards we apply to our land.

With the Government continuously changing legislation we cannot plan for the future, there is too much uncertainty to try to expand our business. Also makes it difficult for the banks to support us with finance for projects to expand if these projects include been able to manage regrowth etc.

We need to be able to plan to drought proof our property for the future. Without been able to clear land for IVHA, this is not possible. Also plans to expand our IVHA takes away extra income through hay production.

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