

## 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.

**Dear Sir/Madam**

**The Compagnoni family has lived on this land in the Mitchell district for more than a 100 years and we hope we will be able to do so for the next 100 years.**

**Our connection and love of this land is unbreakable and ongoing.**

**Members of this family have fought in two world wars. This land is cherished and we have certainly nurtured it to the best of our ability. This has included significant time, effort and cost involved in managing vegetation.**

**In years past, a Queensland Government official would visit this property to ensure that the required amount of trees had been rungbark to open up this region for livestock grazing. A fine was imposed if the task was not completed on time.**

**My dad would pull his boots on and started sharpen his Plumb axe early each morning, ready for the days work developing this land. It was always very important for people to be able to develop this country so they could support their families.**

**I was born in Roma in 1941, educated in Sydney and than returned to Mitchell in 1956 to begin my lifetime career in the grazing industry, initially working as a jackeroo for the Scottish Australian Company (SACO).**

**In 1965 I returned to Carinya to help run the family property. Later I became president of local ratepayers association, then chair of Maranoa Graziers Association in Roma, chairman of UGA's Wool Council of Queensland and a delegate on the Wool Council of Australia.**

Currently, a fifth generation member of our family in at UNE in Armidale, studying agricultural science. She is very much looking forward to having a future on the land. I hope that the rural industries will be able to support all these young people that commit to agriculture as their chosen career.

Vegetation management is an ongoing and never ending part of managing country in this region. For example, brigalow regrowth is one of our many management challenges. When a brigalow tree is knocked down it immediately begins to rejuvenate and over time diminishes the productivity of the land. We understand this reality well. We still smile when we hear someone say "the empire strikes back" looking over areas of inevitable regrowth, knowing there is hard work ahead to restore the productivity of that land for livestock production.

Mulga is also greatly valued as an asset. They are simply one of the best fodder trees for livestock and it is absolutely in our interests to use it sparingly.

As a young man, I worked for the SACO. Directors from that company constantly reinforced to be very careful in our use of mulga trees, as the next generation would also need them. I think we are all aware of their importance of this valuable self-regenerating fodder resource without further restrictions being imposed under these new laws. While the SACO company no longer exists, the land that SACO managed continues to produce food and fibre for Queensland using the same mulga resource. I think that proves what good advice it was.

It is my considered opinion that the new vegetation management laws being introduced by the Palaszczuk government are a major step backwards in terms of agricultural production and environmental outcomes.

Unfortunately, the legislation will limit our ability to properly manage this landscape. It is clear these complex new laws add unnecessary red tape to this process and will inhibit desirable environmental outcomes.

I ask the committee to reject the laws as they have been presented and recommend the continuation of the existing laws.

Yours sincerely

Don Compagnoni

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Signed:	Signed 21/03/2018
Address:	[REDACTED]
Date:	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018