

To Committee Secretary
State Development , Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee
Parliament House

I am a grazier in the North Burnett, I have never written a letter/email to anyone to object to decisions made that directly or indirectly affect my livelihood, but this round of vegetation management laws changes has really angered me to make myself heard. I am very sceptical you will have the time to read this email let alone reply to it either way I will keep writing this letter.

I have 3 points to bring to your attention as result of the State Labor Government actions to erode the very basic rights of owning freehold land again. We have purchased a property recently in July 2015 being in two separate portions, we discovered the front portion has Pmav over it, but the back portion has not. Very aware of upcoming intentions of the Labor Government we went to DRNM in Bundaberg for some information and guidance. We were told – (your front portion has a Pmav over it back in 2007 so your fine there. But your back portion can be locked in under a Pmav as is for a sum of \$434) bearing in mind they have a common boundary we proceeded to pay the money to get the Pmav in place on the back block.

To quote a few figures to get things in proportion the back block has a total area of 776ha with a total area of category X of 86ha some 11% the front block has a total area of 1479 ha with a total area of category X of 509 ha some 34% these figures were acceptable to us at time of purchase and still to this day.

We received an email the night of the 8/3/18 telling us to check our proposed vegetation maps. Also reassuring us any land under a Pmav will be the same, to my absolute disgust when the maps finally come down a large percentage of the category X area on the front block had colour on it denoting proposed category C. This triggered a phone call to DRNM Bundaberg which after a sometimes heated discussion it was explained to me that cat X area that is now coloured to proposed cat C was not under the Pmav cat X. If I would have updated my Pmav it would have stopped this, he also told me I could have combined the Pmav on the two blocks with the single Payment of \$434.00.

As you could well imagine I was even angrier to realise when I was I DRNM Bundaberg in November 2017 the staff neglected to give me all the options available to me, still unsure if it was on purpose or not. I have decided to make an official complaint to this office of DNRM Bundaberg. It may fall on deaf ears, but this area in question is significant to me and significant to operation of the property. I am sure this will effect may graziers that have an early Pmav and am sure may are unaware you can/have to update them. As we have never been made aware of this.

On a similar subject my mother has a property on the other side of town which has multiple portions in two separate areas; she has not got a Pmav over her property. Previous to 8/3/18 her veg maps were at least 95% cat X. but now has significant amounts of colour on the proposed veg

map. This all happened years ago in the dark days of the last regrowth maps, unfortunately satellite photos don't tell the full story, lantana and black wattle looks nice and green from the air as well as on the ground.

Late last year she was admitted to a nursing home in Bundaberg unfortunately it was not a decision she wanted to make but it was a case of having to. Nobody wants to have to leave their own home even more so when you have been there for 60 plus years and you are 91 years old. So to lock in her property under a Pmax would have cost her \$868 which is precious money she needs to pay for the room in the nursing home. Being a self-funded retiree it costs her \$100+ per day to be where she is and also the only government money she receives is a war widows pension from veterans affairs.

This brings me to my third point that freehold tenure on the government website is described as (This allows the landowner to have unrestricted ownership to that land) This basically flies in the face of what my father believed in when he and everyone else who volunteered to serve in WW1 and WW2 and every other war we have been involved in. I fear we are going down a slippery slope of losing control of our freehold land. All because some very minority groups believe farmers/graziers are environmental vandals. These members of these groups who have never had to cut and poison lantana bushes spray weeds or eradicate feral pigs for the simple reason to stop the above spreading and causing more damage.

In conclusion maybe you can find out for me what of the 28% of freehold land in Queensland what percentage of this is cat X, also what percentage of that area is up for grabs in this round of vegetation management laws. I think primary producers as a whole are very tired of being attacked by these people who have very little knowledge of what they are talking about and just need something set in stone. Preferably what we have or had prior to 8/3/18. So we primary producers can get on with the job of producing food for our domestic and export markets. Including food for those people that think it's some sort of game to play with our livelihoods. I am sure anyone who owns even an 800m² house block in the cities wouldn't like to give up the use of 10mx10m area or 12.5% of their backyard only to need a permit to touch any part of that backyard area. Don't laugh this is what is happening to us, it can also happen to freehold house holders in the future.

Thank you if you take the time to read this and also maybe reply to my concerns

Paul Davis

North Burnett Grazier



