

As a [REDACTED] the impact that these changes will have on the agriculture industry & my business alone will be detrimental. We as beef graziers spend our lives dedicated to raising livestock to supply our country & the world. Below are the different factors that I believe have made my decision to be in favour of the rejection of this submission.

+ Costs & Time - Beef production is a business that has high running costs, we spend a lot of our profits & time on our land to ensure that we are utilising it to the best of our ability. This proposal will see the introduction of more legislation that will require us to spend more money & time on applying to manage our vegetation. I feel that this is an unfair requirement that could end up still resulting in rejection but costing us valuable money & time that could be better spent on our businesses & livestock. With these changes we would also see a reduction in the productivity & sustainability of our land for the future. We implement vegetation management practices to help with our land care & would see the following affect our land & productivity:

- Reduction of carrying capacity
- Loss of the ability to increase & improve pastures
- Increase of erosion
- Reduction of natural grasses
- Increase of pest & weed infestation
- Increase in livestock losses in drought
- Loss of the ability to utilise vital vegetation like mulga to feed cattle especially in drought conditions

We already fight to keep our businesses afloat & to have to continually battle with the government over these vegetation laws is beginning to take its toll. The agriculture industry is an important & vital aspect in Australia & our success as a country, we can not only feed our own but also have a highly regarded export market & if we see a reduction in our productivity this will also be felt throughout our export market with the possibility of millions lost. With these changes we will also see larger penalties incurred for not complying with these changes even if it was mistakenly so. This adds a huge financial stress to our already tight budget. When producers see a loss of productivity & success there will be a flow on affect felt in our local communities with less money being spent by farmers & graziers. Hence, if this proposal for change is granted, vegetation management will become one of the most costly & time consuming aspects of being a land owner.

+ Landcare - As beef producers we stand only to gain from looking after the land we own. These properties & livestock to many may only seem as an investment but they are our homes & livelihoods. It seems that many people have the misunderstanding that farmers are out to cruel the land & reap all it has to offer. However, if we were to take this approach to our land we wouldn't see any benefits & our productivity would be affected greatly. The idea that we need someone from a city or a satellite image to tell us how to manage our own vegetation amazes me. We dedicate our lives to ensuring our land is in the best condition possible but are continually criticised for our practices & environmental approach. However, from my point of view has anyone compared the condition of our land & environment to that of the major cities? We spend many years & generations improving & caring for our land & to have numerous legislation be brought in that dictates what & how we are to operate is hugely frustrating. We continually watch the industrial & other industries clear land down to bare grass but if we even considered making small changes to our land we own when it comes to our vegetation management we would incur huge penalties.

Vegetation management practices like control of regrowth & thinning has great benefits to the land including:

- Increases & improves pastures
- Reduces erosion
- Opens land up to release vital nutrients & aerate soil

- Reduces pests & weeds infestation

Practices like mechanical clearing of land keeps undergrowth down creating a balance of grasses & mature trees. This is a natural process that occurred hundreds of years ago in the form of bush fires & even the aboriginals took to control burning to manage the land. We are only taking a more controlled & sustainable approach to this process by utilising our ability to control regrowth & still be able to graze our land.

+ Investment - Vegetation management is a vital part of making land appealing from an investment point of view. With these new restrictions investors will turn away from rural land because we are not able to improve it to be able to produce to the best of its ability. It will also have a huge impact on our future generations & workforce. Our younger generations are already struggling to be able to purchase land to enter into the agriculture industry. These tougher vegetation management legislations mean that it makes it even harder for our up & coming farmers to get established. Many must try to invest/purchase land that hasn't yet been developed to its full potential so these laws pose a threat to their success because they are not able to improve the land to suit their industry. Hence, trying to make the agriculture industry appealing for not only investors but also our younger generations will be impacted by these changes.

The government needs to listen to producers & others from the rural industry when it comes to this matter. We want to be heard & taken seriously about this as it's an extremely important aspect of our industry. STOP listening to those who aren't involved & take notice of US the ones who this affects the most.