




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

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**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (CLEARING FOR RELEVANT PURPOSES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill. This bill has been developed to address gaps within the existing legislative framework that constrain the ability of primary producers to clear land for legitimate purposes and enables access to a reasonable appeals process. Currently, grazing is not considered a relevant purpose for high-value agriculture clearing. However, it is considered a relevant purpose for irrigated high-value agriculture clearing.

This limits the ability of a grazier to establish a source of feed to improve the productivity of their operation. In order to develop a more profitable and competitive domestic international agriculture industry in Queensland, graziers must have a range of options for cultivating and sourcing feed. Although the bill broadens the scope of activities that are an acceptable reason to undertake clearing, the existing legislative regulatory framework provides inadequate mitigation of detrimental environment impacts.

Furthermore, the farm management practices of producers ensure a high standard of environmental management across the industry. Currently, there is no right of appeal or review for persons who have made an application under section 22A of the act where the application has been rejected.