

Submission: Native Vegetation Laws

Terms of Reference: 1a

We are primary producers, grazing beef cattle in the _____ region of South East Queensland. We currently stock approximately 115 head on 320 acres.

Our property is fertile, hilly country on scrub soil, with a high carrying capacity. It is primarily cleared grassland of improved pasture, with pockets of Hoop Pine.

The resulting product which leaves our property is of a very high quality which has ensured our livelihood.

In maintaining our livelihood it is necessary to control weeds and regrowth to both continue the supply of pasture for stock and to maintain carrying capacity; regrowth competes with pasture growth. From experience, predominate regrowth is lantana and wattle. At no time has any clearing or weed control caused land degradation. We strongly believe we have successfully created a sustainable balance between our needs as primary producers and that of our immediate environment. We value the resource we possess.

Legislation on Native Vegetation now states that our cleared grassland is endangered regrowth. Consequently, we are now prohibited from carrying out any measures which would continue to hold our country in the healthy balance it was in. In fact, approximately 50% of our land is now designated 'High Value Regrowth Vegetation'. This labelling was applied according to satellite imagery, coincidentally highlighting the shadier, southern sides of hill slopes, and without any reference to actual on-site evaluation.

We emphatically believe that the current legislation has been a blanket ruling without careful consideration or consultation. With our carrying capacity now at certain risk of diminishing so too will our income. We now own a property that has lost value owing to the fact that any potential buyer knows that the land is unable to be utilized to its true potential.