

We strongly object to the Environmental Protection Reforms 2026.

We believe it will impose impractical outcomes on our business and agricultural production system by increasing administration significantly and therefore increasing costs and time.

These latest Environmental Protection Reforms ultimately will promote massive uncertainty for us with lack of clarity as to how and if we can further develop our agricultural land and continue to conduct business as we know it. We understand and comply by the current highly regulated Queensland Government PMAV ( Property Map of Assessable Vegetation) and believe this system is of the highest integrity for both the environment & agricultural production systems. It is incomprehensible why we need another layer of government bureaucracy. The new reforms will further enhance ambiguity and indecision for capital growth within our business. We conduct a profitable and healthy agricultural business which contributes to the nation's Gross Domestic Production. We do not rely on government handouts . We work hard and have pride in our product. We pay our taxes, we provide employment, we produce food and fibre and nurture our land. We refer to ourselves firstly as environmentalists because without a healthy environment, our business does not survive, and secondly refer to ourselves as primary producers.

We are deeply offended by the latest reforms as the presumption of guilt is obviously the concept the current Federal Government has taken. We have perused the DCCEE website platform and launched the Protected Matters Search Tool, put our properties into the system and are bamboozled by the data, for example the 'possibility of migratory birds'. Explain to us how we can objectively differ or negate such information ?

Our business in agricultural production is complex. Every year we change and edit our approach depending on many scenarios, mainly the weather patterns, but also the commodity markets, our ability to access our fundamental resources required such as fuel, seed, fertiliser, labour units,, hired machinery contractors to name a few. Therefore every year we have to be flexible and have organizational resilience and business agility. Our business plans are 10 to 15 year models - change doesnot happen quickly. We assess, carefully plan, budget, prepare, analyze every change of land usage we make. We can easily let areas of our properties stay dormant for 10 to 15 years or longer before we can re-arrange the useage . If we go through a dry period, we let our land rest and do not disturb the flora or fauna. Therefore after regeneration and when we see opportunity to plant extra grass species, or a productive crop or introduce foraging animals, we do so with much deliberation and careful consideration. We do not have the ability to wait months or years for government to assess our request for a possible change of land useage - the windows of opportunities are small due to all of the above factors.

We are confident in our own environmental assessment. We live in and on our business; every one of our senses is attuned to our surroundings. We hear the many different birds and calls of native fauna, we smell the change of weather, we taste the difference in our homegrown fruit and vegetables, beef and lamb, we see everything on an hourly , daily , weekly and annual basis. We are an agricultural family with generations of experience and respect for our land and therefore no better custodians.