

Peter & Sue Joliffe

WALHALLOW STATION

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7 JULY 2026

RE: SUBMISSION TO QLD PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

In the interest of all Australian farmers & their communities, we believe, all laws regarding Vegetation Management on our own land, which protect thickening native vegetation will destroy the productivity of farmers & graziers now & also for the generations to come.

I am a 70-year-old cattle grazer & have owned & managed our property, "Walhallow" for 55 years. My wife & I are 4th generation farmers & I would like to state a few facts that I believe have been overlooked by political parties for many of the years we've been in business.

When our ancestors came to this country, there was no electricity & very little infrastructure. A large portion of this land was uninhabitable. They pioneered the landscape & put down bores, made dams, built roads, houses & communities using renewable raw materials, before the use of machinery to do so. The lifestyle we enjoy today is because of their tenacity & their hard work & the adversities that they endured.

In the media we are constantly being bombarded by untruths consisting of land areas of X amount of hectares of football fields per day being cleared. The facts are, we have been clearing the same areas (football fields) repeatedly for 55 years. There are more trees on our property than there was when my grandfather settled this country in 1937. Continuous vegetation clearing is what is required for sustainable land management for all farmers & graziers in the Maranoa & Warrego regions, where the native vegetation has become as rampant as invasive woody weeds, causing erosion & drought.

It's a fact the farmers in Australia can grow food & fibre well, in the most arid country. We can handle everything that nature throws at us. What we can't handle, is the ever-increasing amount of government intervention, through laws & regulations, which will inevitably lead to farmers NOT being able to produce off the land they own. We have a definite bond/connection to our land & through droughts, fires & floods we accept & adjust to all the ups & downs, to be here for the long term, but without support for us in parliament, when crucial decisions are made which affect our livelihood, farmer's numbers will gradually diminish & communities will shrink. We are very PROUD to be part of not only feeding our great nation but also contributing to feeding the ever-increasing populations around the world.

With regards to our situation on "Walhallow", 10 000 acres was taken for Forestry lease (with no compensation) when we applied for Freehold Tenure on our property. When the Beattie Govt brought in the Vegetation Management Act in Yr 2000, another 10 000 acres was shaded in on a map, protected by law (again with no compensation). They used images of native vegetation that had

thickened before any machinery was ever used. The technology used today will clearly show that the vegetation has increased massively since the Year 2000. Overall, 2/3 of "Walhallow" has become unproductive land because of thickening vegetation & laws that protect it. We believe when Governments bring in laws that affects the productivity of our own properties, they should be based on scientific proof & not founded on propaganda from activists, who have absolutely no knowledge of our industry or the land.

We are PROUD Aussie farmers whose aim is to keep our land healthy & productive for not only us but our children also & their children going forward. Please be aware of how much we contribute to the economy & also keep the west viable.

We sincerely believe that the solution to this problem of added Legislation, protecting thickening vegetation, is to include ourselves & farmers in the decision making process, at the "grassroots level", as we are directly impacted by the laws that strangle our productivity. We hope for a change where our concerns are listened to.

Yours sincerely

Peter & Sue Joliffe