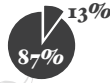


# Qld Vegetation Management Facts & Legislation

## Facts



Queensland is just under 200,000,000 hectares.



Just 13% of Qld has previously been developed (for all purposes including urban development) – not just ag – 87% remains undeveloped.



In 2015/2016 vegetation was managed on just 0.23% of Qld's area - less than 1/4 of 1% - with most being regrowth.



There is 1 farmer for every 277 people in Qld (0.05% of Qld's population are farmers).



1.77 million hectares of developed farmland was locked up under the 2018 legislation with no compensation.



There are over 14M hectares of national park and nominated conservation areas in Qld - the area protected increased by 3 million hectares in 2011-2015 and now covers 8% of Qld.



Every year we are losing farmland to urban encroachment, to conservation, to offsets, to mining and renewable energy, to infrastructure and industry.



Vegetation legislation in Qld has had 18 changes since 1999 – and for the 19th time in 2018.



The Queensland Government admitted it did not do any analysis of the social and economic impacts of the 2018 laws, and had no intention of doing so.



Qld Ag supports over 300 000 jobs.

## Messages

2018 legislation locked up 1.7 million hectares of developed farmland with no compensation.

Legislation banned all future agricultural development in Qld by removing agriculture as a purpose under the Planning Act.

2018 changes severely restrict other essential management activities like reducing encroachment or controlling woody weeds.

By their own admission the Qld government only measures the amount of land on which vegetation management is undertaken, they do not measure the amount of trees that grow each year.

Qld farmers live and grow food in some of the most remote places on earth.

We might live a long way from consumers but we are connected by our food.

Our passion is to grow food and fibre.

Food shouldn't be political.

Our farms pass generation to generation – the sustainability of our families relies on the sustainability of our farms.

We're using regenerative agricultural practises to improve water quality, build soil and promote biodiversity.

Changes are being imposed on land that had been previously assigned by the State for the purpose of grazing and agriculture.

Millions of dollars of State Government procured research has been ignored.

The 2018 legislation was introduced to satisfy an election promise and was not based on science.

The legislation financially impacted Qld farmers and graziers but with no compensation.

*A True Story...*

## *The Science*

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Queensland Government's DAF has performed 55 years of woodland management research (much of these headed by Dr Bill Burrows (BAgrSc, MAgSc & Phd Environmental Biology), former Senior Scientist (Woodland Management) with former DPI (now DAFF)) – starting in 1963. This research was ignored.

The focus of this research covered the full gamut of plant ecology and woodland production systems across the State.

Repeated recording of these areas over the years provided the first concrete evidence that remnant 'intact' grazed eucalypt systems were not 'stable' but thickening up (increasing in size, stem density/basal area and/or canopy cover).

The trend of increasing tree and shrub thickening in both 'intact' and regrowth communities is ongoing with resultant declines in agricultural productivity.

Any releases of carbon dioxide, as a result of clearing for vegetation management, are more than offset by the uptake resulting from DNRME occurrence of grazed woodland thickening (Global Change Biology (2002)).

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## *The Legislative Changes*

**1.**

Changes the definition of high-value regrowth vegetation - this term now applies to any vegetation not cleared in the last 15 years – no analysis of the conservation values of this regrowth was undertaken.

**2.**

Regulates regrowth on freehold land, Indigenous land and occupational licences in addition to leasehold land for agriculture and grazing.

**3.**

High-value agriculture clearing and irrigated high-value agriculture clearing were removed as a relevant purpose under the Planning Act.

**4.**

Addition of near threatened wildlife to the essential habit map layer (more than 2 million hectares!).

**5.**

Extension of Category R areas - the Burnett-Mary, eastern Cape York and Fitzroy catchments – affecting regrowth vegetation in areas located within 50m of a watercourse or drainage feature. This regulation applies across freehold, indigenous and leasehold land.

**6.**

Withdrawal of Code for clearing of vegetation for thinning. Managing thickened vegetation now requires a Development Application. Requirements to be demonstrated in a development application for managing thickened vegetation.

**7.**

Phased out landholder-driven area management plans as a mechanism for managing low-risk clearing.

**8.**

The 'Managing Fodder Harvesting Mulga Lands Fodder Area Management Plan' was revoked and new size and time limits on the areas able to be notified for clearing even for drought feeding cattle.

**9.**

Significant increases to Penalty Units for all offences under the Act.

*A True Story...*