

The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Our ref CTS 11216/18

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2 9 MAY 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 2 May 2018, forwarding for response e-petition 2854-18 and paper petition 2922-18 (the petitions) as tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 1 May 2018.

In response to the petitions, I would like to address the two issues raised by clarifying the intent of the government's vegetation management reforms as they relate to managing thickened vegetation and managing fodder harvesting.

The CSIRO in their review of the Queensland Herbarium's report "Science supporting revision of codes of self-assessed vegetation thinning and fodder harvesting in Queensland" recommended that an accepted development code not apply to managing thickened vegetation, as the assessments which need to be done to determine whether thickening has occurred, are too complex for a landholder to perform. In response to these scientific assessments, I have withdrawn the Managing Thickened Vegetation code following assent of the Bill on 9 May 2018. The government has, however, made provision for a landholder to make a development approval application for this activity. This will ensure that those landholders who need to manage thickened vegetation are able to do so.

The Queensland Herbarium and CSIRO recommended that an accepted development code for Fodder Harvesting be maintained, with revisions. I accepted those recommendations. Whilst the practice of fodder harvesting is being continued under an accepted development code, management practices have been modified to meet the purpose of the Vegetation Management Act. Harvesting under the code requires notification, but not an approval, and harvesting can commence as soon as the notification is made.

Landholders are encouraged to contact the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy by calling the Veg Hub on 135VEG (13 58 34) or emailing vegetation@dnrme.qld.gov.au, to discuss their individual situation.

I would be pleased if you would arrange the tabling of this response under Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Paul Woodland, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

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Dr Anthony Lynham MP Minister for Matural Resources, Mines and Energy