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Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
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To the Agriculture and Environment Parliamentary Committee,

Re: Response to Question on Notice at *Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* Public Hearing in Townsville

At the recent public hearing held in Townsville on 18 May 2016, I took a question on notice. That question was:

Mr KATTER: I have two questions. The first one is to do with thickening and encroachment which is a big part of this discussion. We talk about Aboriginal people burning their country for 40,000 years. There is not as much burning going on now anywhere so there is a lot of thickening happening. The landscape is radically changing in areas where for 40,000 years it was burnt to manage and control encroachment and thickening. I would be interested to see what your opinion is on that given that this legislation will impact heavily on people's ability to manage encroachment and thickening.

NQCC refutes that this Bill will impact heavily on people's ability to manage encroachment and thickening.

It is NQCC's understanding that clearing of non-high value regrowth under self-assessable codes is not affected by the current Bill. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines website states that there is no impact of the Bill on self-assessable vegetation clearing codes, except in the instance that the clearing involves proposed category C and R vegetation types, then there may be a requirement for new notifications.¹

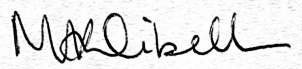
¹ <https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/our-department/policies-initiatives/vegetation-management/new-laws/who-is-affected>

Furthermore, the self-assessable vegetation clearing codes on the Queensland Government website specifically list 'Managing Encroachment', 'Managing Regrowth' and various thinning codes for different bioregions.²

The opinion of NQCC that the current Bill won't affect an ability to manage encroachment and thickening is based on consulting both referenced websites and investigating what activities are permissible under self-assessable codes.

When managing encroachment of trees and shrubs into native grassland areas (as opposed to land already developed for grazing), NQCC agrees with the statements made by the Cape York Scientists' submission no. 637,³ in saying that tree clearing is not the solution to vegetation thickening. Rather, reduced grazing, improved fire regimes and weed management are essential strategies to increase native grass cover.

Regards,



Maree Dibella
Acting Coordinator

² <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/codes/>

³ <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/AEC/2016/11-VegetationMangt/submissions/637.pdf>