New vegetation management rules

Landholders are coming to terms with new vegetation management rules which came into effect last December and a series of self-assessable codes which supposedly make compliance easier.

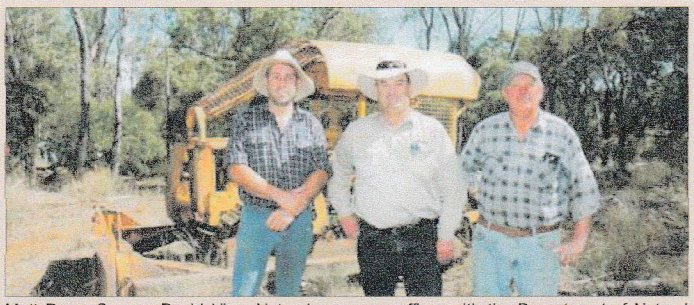
At a field day at Quinalow, officers from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines explained the changes to Queensland's vegetation management rules and how landholders in various areas, with different types of vegetation, can manage their properties accordingly.

The 25 orso landholders from Yarraman and Cooyar in the north to Moola and Kaimkillenbun in the west and Peranga, *Highgrove, and Cooby Dam, all had misgivings* about government imposed vegetation management in the past, after the first vegetation maps were released in 1999-2000, permits were required, and compliance appeared to be a priority, with high profile court actions against landholders.

But the current State Government changed the Act last year and the new regulations became law in December. Detailed regulations were made available in August.

Natural resource officer with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines David Hinz told those at the field day that there still was a compliance section.

He said there were still restrictions with the new codes, but they were more workable.



Matt Ryan, Cooyar, David Hinz, Natural resources officer with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Dalby, and Quinalow landholder Barry Reimers with the old D4 dozer that Barry uses to thin vegetation according to the new vegetation management codes.

He said compliance also included an extension approach so that the department and landholders worked together to achieve the right outcomes. The field day, organised by North East Downs Landcare, concentrated particularly on the codes that allowed the thinning of vegetation, the removal of certain species and certain sizes of vegetation, over restricted areas, so that pastures for grazing could be combined with the maintenance of vegetation.

The field day was held on the property of Barry and Owena Reimers and approved thinning of vegetation was demonstrated with a D4 dozer.

Barry uses the approved thinning code to open up the canopy so that Queensland Blue grass and Green Panic grass can be established for grazing. Thinning of vegetation is controlled and the knocking down of vegetation using the ball and chain between two dozers is banned.

At the heart of the new legislation for many landholders are new codes, most of which are self-assessable.

But landholders are required to submit their property plans to the department and landholders can proceed to implement their plans without further notification to the department.

However, should monitoring by the department detect non-approved changes to the vegetation of a property without the required notification, auditing can occur and compliance notices can be issued.

The new vegetation rules include new *Statewide vegetation maps which show the areas* which have assessable vegetation and the areas which have non-assessable vegetation.

The vegetation on most of the Northern Darling Downs, which has not been previously cleared for cropping, is assessable and the new codes apply. Queensland has 13 bio-regions, and there are five thinning codes, which can be applied to remnant vegetation.

When thinning, a certain number of habitat trees per hectare must be maintained. There are also rules regarding habitat recruitment trees and other vegetation.

Landholders can also manage vegetation for the production of forest products, such as posts and rails for their own use, and also for the commercial sale of timber. - MILES NOLLER.

Japanese agricultural administrators visit

ABOVE: LEFT - Crystal Stark, Blue Haze on the Andurramba Range north of Crows Nest, with Mizuho Choi who was a leader/interrupter for Japanese agricultural administrators who visited the Crows Nest district. The views from Blue Haze have assisted in attracting tour groups since 1977 after Blue Haze was the runner-up in an environmental competition and Crystal hosted coach loads of overseas visitors who learned about food production and admired the view. She said farmer hosts around the district were required for January, 2015, when 500 *Chinese were scheduled to visit the region and will require accommodation on farms. RIGHT - Crows Nest fencing contractor Digger Faulkner demonstrates the art of constructing a farm* fence to the visiting Japanese agricultural administrators while at Blue Haze. He was erecting a five-wire fence with ironbark posts.

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STARIHA AUCTIONS

O'SULLIVAN AUCTIONS
PROPERTY LIVESTOCK
Harristown Saleyards
Cattle Market Report
Sale Date: Monday, September 22
COMBINED YARDING OF 535 HEAD

MARKET QUOTES: A smaller yarding of very mixed cattle came forward today. There was a few good pens of Heavy Steers and only limited numbers of Cows this week. A good sample of feeder steers were on offer while a mixed yarding of vealers were about. Export classes held with last week's improved rates while some plainer & lighter vealers/trade maybe a little easier. Regular buyer's in attendance with good support from Feedlot operators & Restockers. Charolais cross steers 629kg from Vale View sold for 212.8c for $1339 also selling 596kg Angus steers for $1256, Limousin Vealer steers 202kg sold for 195.2c for $395, Hereford Feeder steers from Oakey 294kg sold for 207.2c for $609, Murray Grey feeder Heifers 320kg sold foir 179.2c for $573, Hereford steers off crop 488kg sold for 196.2c for $958 also selling Heifers 379kg for 185.2c, Fresian Cross Heifers 417kg sold for 174.2c for $727.Charolais cross steers 335kg from Kingaroy sold for 220c for $737, Murray grey steers 335kg sold for 215.2c for $720, Brahman Steers from Kulpi 403kg sold for 190c for $766, Angus steers 685kg sold for 196.2c for $1343....

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TOOWOOMBA CATTLE & PIG MARKET REPORT
Monday, September 22

CATTLE: A total of 820 cattle sold to firm rates for cows & bullocks with trade classes & bulls easier on last week's rates. Best bulls sold to 210.2c/kg, best bullocks sold A/c GK Stirling & Co Pittsworth for 211.2c/kg to return $1303.10. Most pens of bullocks sold from 198-210.2c/kg. Greg & Brenda Suhr from Plainby sold feeder steers to 211.2c/kg. Heavy feeder steers A/c Ray Sweedman, Milmerran sold for 208.2c/kg for $916.95. Only a small number of export heifers yarded with the best pen A/c Glasser Family selling to 194.2c/kg for $1104.51. Highlight of the day was Limousin heifers A/c J & K Wilkes selling to 203.2c/kg, 552kg to return $1121.66. A good pen of Friesian cows sold to 167.2c/kg, for $1271.56. Limousin cows ex Pittsworth sold to 190.2c/kg to return $1274.34. Cows ex Highland Plains reached 185.2c/kg for $1240.84. Medium cows ex Milmerran sold to 150.2c/kg while lightweight cows sold from 100-135c/kg. Trade steers & heifers sold to 186.2c/kg with most selling from 170-185.2c/kg. NS & LA Gotz sold Murray Grey heifers for 186.2c/kg to return $609.81. Vealers to slaughter sold from 140-183.2c/kg. Restocker steers A/c WJ & AE Wockner sold to 213.2c/kg to return $639.60. Bob & Phil Harman, Crows Nest sold steers for 198.2c/kg, 280kgs for $554.96. Santa steers ex. Clifton sold for 195.2c/kg, 378kgs for $737.86. Lightweight Angus calves sold to 212.2c/kg.

PIGS: Backfatter sows were the highlight of the sale with very dear prices. Quality store & weaner pigs again sold to very dear rates, however prime pork & bacon sold to easier trends. Prime pork 250-310c/kg, Prime light bacon 230-280c/kg, Prime bacon 180-230c/kg, Boars 12c/kg, Sows to 135c/kg, Forward stores $138-$148, Weaners $94-$98

NEXT SALE: Monday, September 29
FOR BOOKINGS
Contact Darren Hartwig 0428 736 470

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