

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Regrowth result recognises good land management

AgForce president John Cotter has declared that Queensland's new vegetation management law, which comes into effect on Thursday, recognises AgForce's policy input on behalf of broadacre producers who are sustainably managing their land.

Mr Cotter said the new legislation balances productive land management while maintaining biodiversity values.

"A key element is that land which has been managed since 31 December 1989 is exempt from the legislation, therefore producers who have sustainably managed woody weeds over the past two decades can continue doing so to maintain ground cover," Mr Cotter said.

"Pre-1989 vegetation can be managed with a self assessable code, and landholders with category X on an existing Property Maps of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV) are also exempt from this new legislation. Practices covered by permits – such as clearing for fence lines, fire-management or for fodder – can also continue.

"The government has recognised the good environmental practices of many landholders who are already doing the right thing by not clearing woody weeds on steep slopes or in riparian zones, and this legislation will not impact their productivity."

Mr Cotter said AgForce has worked hard since the April 2009 moratorium on clearing specific types of regrowth to ensure the state government understood its implications to sustainable agricultural production.

"AgForce has been ferocious in pursuing a sensible outcome and we ensured the Minister for Natural Resources had his 'boots on the ground' by taking him out to properties to see the beneficial results of appropriate sucker management," Mr Cotter said.

Mr Cotter said AgForce will monitor inaccuracies in the new mapping system and he recommended landholders check the status of their property on the new regrowth vegetation maps which are available from October 7 on the Department of Environment and Resource Management website, [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au).

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- AgForce is a farm group advocating on behalf of Queensland beef, sheep and grain producers. AgForce is celebrating the 10-year anniversary since the amalgamation of its predecessor organisations: the United Graziers' Association, the Cattlemen's Union and the Queensland Grain Growers Association in 1999.