

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## AgForce calls on Minister to protect productive land

With less than a week remaining until the Queensland Government introduces additional vegetation management legislation, state farm group AgForce is calling for a balanced approach which maintains productive agricultural capability while meeting conservation values.

AgForce president John Cotter said landholders were seeking an end to the uncertainty over property management created by the moratorium on clearing regrowth put in place in April, and he called on Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson to deliver a result which supports sustainable production.

“AgForce calls on the Minister to protect productive agricultural land by ruling out any regulatory impact on ‘new’ regrowth,” Mr Cotter said.

“AgForce has a long standing policy that supports balancing conservation with production for whole-of-property landscape management.

“We recognise that most land managers who have not cleared suckers for groundcover management during the past 20 years may have chosen to do so for conservation reasons.

“We therefore ask the government to deliver a policy position which balances the protection of conservation values and productive capabilities, by not imposing restrictions on country which has been managed sustainably for a reasonable amount of time.”

AgForce’s position is that not one hectare of well-managed productive land should be lost through the legislation.

The vegetation clearing moratorium imposed on the industry on April 7, 2009, expires next week at midnight on October 7.

**For comment, contact John Cotter on 0427 684 122 (available after 2pm today).  
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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.