

Tue 27/04/2010 9:36 AM

Dear Ms Thomson, re the question on notice

1/ Firstly I never said that the fact sheet from NR&W Queensland "is fraudulent unscientific garbage" as Senator Cameron asserts. I made this comment re an issue completely unrelated to the content of that particular Fact Sheet.

My comments as recorded on page 87 of Hansard are as follows " They { Qld Govt} used inaccurate maps from the sky to overnight take 1000 acres off me. They have misrepresented the vegetation types that they are supposed to be. They are not even what they say they are and I will contest that in the Courts when I get around to it as well. The whole system is fraudulent unscientific garbage." My comments clearly pertain to the highly inaccurate satellite based aerial mapping system used by the Qld. Govt to prosecute landholders for various alleged Veg. Management offences and do not extend to the contents of the Fact Sheet referred to by Senator Cameron.

2/ Re the Fact Sheet –Brigalow Catchment Study {Fertility Decline of Brigalow land cleared for grain or beef production}

This study only serves to quantify the anticipated decline seen in Brigalow soils. Similar declines are seen in most farming and grazing systems world wide and have for centuries been rectified by the use of applied fertilizers or the rotational use of legume based pastures. This study only reaffirms a great agricultural truth in that society cannot harvest agricultural production for ever without maintaining fertility through the application of artificial or naturally created fertilizers.

In fact, the Fact Sheet concludes by saying " NRW's results show that nutrient replacement is needed on Brigalow soils to avert productivity decline . This can take the form of applied fertilizer, rotation with pulse crops or rotation with grass/legume ley pastures. "

The study confirms that after clearing Brigalow the resulting pastures increase beef production by at least 10 times, dropping to 5 times after 21 years ,if steps are not taken to replace the nutrients that are harvested. Sustainable grazing systems can be implemented that will reverse any decline and lift production significantly back towards levels seen after initial clearing.

/ The comments I made before the Inquiry re this issue are clearly consistent with the context of the NRW Fact Sheet and I believe I have done a dis service by Senator Cameron when he used my quote {"is fraudulent scientific garbage" completely out of context and does not reflect my assessment of this particular Fact Sheet.

DR. L G Mc Nicholl B V.Sc., M.SC .