

Submission to Senate Select Inquiry into banking and primary production, June, 2017

The Wheatbelt Integrity Group is an incorporated group, formed to address issues of wheatbelt debt, rural suicide and restoring population to the regions through soil restoration. We are concerned with the unconscionable conduct of banks in relation to farmers. Our personal experience is our immediate concern, and we are encouraged that parliament is seeking to address this issue.

From our experience of speaking to farmers, we realize that most are indeed too traumatized or intimidated to make a submission. WIG is prepared to assemble as many farmers as possible to make verbal submissions to a hearing.

We have documentation from our personal experience which we can submit on request.

*'...in farming communities...the hurt being felt there is real and all around Australia in the marginal Wheatbelt, farmers and communities are in deep trouble,' he (Kent Broad) explains.
'It is a lot more hidden because the banks aren't going in through the front door and evicting people with the cameras rolling these days. But the end result is the same.'
'In the eastern areas of the wheatbelt there are whole areas owned by the banks and there are no buyers, so the land price per hectare goes down and that accentuates the problem.'
The Furrow, Edition 1, 2017, John deere.com.au, pp 4&5.

Catherine J. Kelly,
Hollands Track Farm,