

Name: Edward Johnston Sullivan and Margaret Anne Sullivan

Background: Edward (Ted) Sullivan, aged 68, grew up and then worked on pastoral stations in north-west New South Wales and south-west Queensland until 1972 when he was operations manager for a firm in Goondiwindi specializing in advising landholders regarding their plans for property development.

During the period 1967 to 2001, Sullivans always ran livestock, either on agistment, on leased country or on small parcels of their own land. In 2001 they consolidated and purchased the freehold, 850ha property, in the Coolatai district, where they run cattle and sheep.

Margaret Sullivan, aged 65, grew up on a dairy/bean farm in the Gympie district in Queensland. She gained a Bachelor of Applied Science (Biology) degree in 1995 and a Graduate Diploma in Education in 2009 (both in external mode). She has been doing casual Science teaching at Warialda High School.

It is the Sullivans intention to leave in as healthy a condition as they possibly can for those who come after them. They have never overstocked any country that was under their guardianship; they have always maintained grass cover at sustainable levels (except where it was out of their control in drought situations); they have relocated stock watering points to protect creek banks (with assistance from the previous Coalition Government's Envirofund); put in rollover banks on farm roads in steep country to avoid erosion; and controlled weeds and feral animal pests, etc.

Submission: Terms of Reference (2)

As citizens of this wonderful nation Australia and as citizens of the world, Ted and I feel a responsibility to have as little adverse impact on the environment as possible. We want our grandchild and his children, etc. to enjoy what we have enjoyed during our lifetimes.

It seems to us that the Coalition's Direct Action plan will give us the chance to feel we are making a difference and a contribution, and it will not cost us an arm and a leg, unlike the dodgy, improbable scheme put up by the Government, which Mr Rudd/Senator Wong cannot explain adequately.

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We cannot help but feel we are being ‘sold a pup’ by Dr Con Merchant, aka Kevin Rudd, and his other snake oil salesmen/women cronies. How can a price be put on carbon, one of the building blocks of life itself? What is to stop the megalomaniac putting a price on other elements, e.g. oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen etc? He must be stopped from inflicting his grandiose schemes on us, before he puts a price on all the elements in the Periodic Table.

We strenuously object to the Labor Government’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and their Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) because of the pointlessness of it all – after all the money is raked in, after producers go to the wall and we import everything from China, there will still be no benefit to the environment.

Senator Wong says, “The time to act is now.” Well, let Labor act now and allow grazing in national parks to reduce fuel levels (as advocated so strongly by Senator John Williams). Let Labor act now and allow people to harvest fallen timber from roadsides (again, to reduce fuel for bush fires). Let Labor act now to allow people to clear around their homes in bushfire-prone areas – without the threat of massive fines. Let Labor act now to properly manage the massive acreage of National Parks and so on and so on, instead of trying to drive us to the wall with their massive new tax. And let Labor (along with governments of all persuasions) reduce their intrusion into our lives and let them roll back those laws that take away our private property rights.

From our perspective as beef and sheep producers with two lifetimes experience on, and commitment to, the land, we urge the Senate to vote NO again to Labor’s CPRS and ETS.