

Dear Sir/Madam,

Firstly we would like to comment that it is totally unacceptable for the Government to be conducting an important enquiry like this without properly publicising it to the wider community, especially to the farming community. How can it be an effective & accurate enquiry if the people who are affected most don't have a chance to put in submissions because they are not even aware of this enquiry. We were only made aware of it this week when a friend sent us an email. We hope this will be received in time. It is an extra busy time on our farm right now...we are doing our annual shearing and couldn't write this submission till tonight!

We have been Primary Producers all our working lives and have become increasingly frustrated by the increasing number of laws and restrictions placed on our business without any compensation or consideration.

Some examples of how the laws are adversely affecting us are:

- This one concerns us very greatly. There is 1000 acres of Heritage Listed Native bush adjoining our property. We are very fearful of it catching fire. We will probably lose everything when this happens! We have talked to the local branch of Department of Environment & Heritage. They are developing plans to manage native vegetation for fire safety. They are planning to periodically burn native vegetation but don't know how to tackle a large piece of bushland like this one because we are not allowed to clear breaks/tracks in it so it can be burnt in smaller, more manageable sections, one at a time. Instead they don't know what to do and haven't done anything. One day it will catch fire and be totally destroyed, endangering lives and properties in the surrounding area.
- Not being allowed to remove scattered trees/bush in paddocks means it makes it difficult to plant them to crops. This impacts greatly on the economic sustainability of the farm. We also like to keep some native bushland but it needs to be approached with commonsense. We have planted shelter belts. We have fenced off creeklines, at our own expense. We should in return be allowed to clear bush which impedes on pasture or cropping areas. We wouldn't have a problem with the laws if they were fair and commonsense prevailed. We do need crops....because the world does need to be fed!
- It is very difficult to properly maintain roadside fencelines because of the ridiculously narrow amount of bush you are allowed to clear on the roadside. It is only **one** metre!!! These laws need to be reviewed to accommodate modern machinery!
- Ridiculous laws about where we can build dams means it is almost impossible to build successful dams sometimes because of not being allowed to clear any vegetation on the dam site. Sometimes there may be no other suitable place to place the dam where it will catch water!

If farmers are to remain on their properties they need to be able to remain economically sustainable and **WE DO NEED FARMERS!** It is about time the world woke up to that fact or else we will all starve!

Regards,

Jon & Rosalie Bell