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From: Greg Burrows [<mailto:burrq@wn.com.au>]

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2000 12:48 AM

To: committee.reps@aph.gov.au

Subject: Submission/ Conservation Controls on Landholders

Conservation needs to be seen as a benefit to Landholders not a cost. In the long term that's what it is. There is an economic cost and an economic benefit.

Without it there is an environmental cost and an economic loss.

The problem is the short term which is associated with the current economics of farming largely determined by banks and or Merchandise companies.

(Banks seem to have the most to loose by loosing customers through environmental loose salinity, yet seem to do very little to promote longer term environmentally sustainable projects, they need to put up and adapt to long term turnovers. Are they capable of this or is 12 months too long in banking for small scale individuals.

Chemical and Fertilizer companies also have a lot to loose, I only see the occasional token from them. Why?

If it wont come from the above then short term funding is required, which should be easy:

1/ If you eat you pay an environmental levee or tax. Could be no GST on food but 2% enviro tax on food.

That 2% is invested directly into on ground works, not through Gov agencies, that way Australians are investing in Australia. (Protecting the environment, Protecting their quality of life).

2/ A tax of .0002% of every transaction on the Aust stock exchange so pretend things could go to something real.

Two easy ways to raise revenue to support short term works.

Farmers who have not cleared or have large ares of rem vegetation, have impotent areas for protecting or retaining Australia's unique boidiversity, These areas need to be given a value i.e. farmers need to be paid either per hectare X quality or per annum for retaining/maintaing this vegetation. At present it is seen as a cost where as really it is an asset both to the farmer and to Australians.

I have been on the land over 30 years and have a few other ideas and concerns, if your interested please return correspondence.

Thank you.