

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to put in a submission to your inquiry into the impact of conservation controls on Landholders.

I am a Landholder, Chairperson of the Natural Resource Management Group of the Desert Uplands Committee in central western Queensland, and a member of our local Landcare Group.

I believe that to a certain level Conservation measures can definitely be beneficial to most Landholders. However beyond that level it becomes a cost to the landholder and a threat to his livelihood and security of tenure. We landholders are having to bear the cost of preserving the environment for all the rest of Australia. We are so small in number compared with the total population it is not fair and equitable.

Let me give you an example. Our next door neighbours have several hectares of wonderful natural springs. In these springs there have been identified a species of fish and two species of plants which are found nowhere else in the world! Totally unique to this place. These people are struggling financially. We have had drought for seven years in the last eight and a half. These people could greatly increase their overall production and help to drought proof themselves if they fenced off the total springs area, planted introduced non-native pastures in the springs, then, when the next drought comes they would have abundant feed for their stock.

They have received advice from naturalists that this course of action would almost certainly choke out the rare plants, greatly reduce the water supply and probably kill out the rare fish. Our neighbours have agreed to preserve the springs in their current natural state.

However, as you can see, it is at great expense and future sacrifice to themselves. They alone are sacrificing their own income and standard of living to protect a wonderful natural resource. For whom???

The rest of Australia. They receive not a word of thanks, not a cent of assistance!

Is this fair and just?

The activities, wants and needs of every Australian has an effect either directly or indirectly on the environment. Surely every Australian has a "duty of care" to contribute to its protection and restoration.

