

I would like to make a submission to the above inquiry.

Public good conservation measures imposed on landholders and farmers seriously impact on their ability to manage the land they own. They are unable to make maximum use of the land and therefore their ability to earn income from the land is impeded. A town dweller would not be happy if he or she were told that they had to fence off 30% of their backyard to let it grow native grass and trees. This would seriously affect their quality of life. It is no different if a farmer is dictated to in the same way as regularly happens.

**If the community wishes to control or have areas maintained for conservation purposes then the community should pay for that privilege. A farmer should receive a stewardship payment for the work he does to conserve the environment when it is dictated to him by another party (eg government) that he should do this work or refrain from doing something that affects his income.**

If city people were told how they could run their lives eg they must not drive their car if they live within 30klm of the city centre they would be outraged. This may be hypothetical but it would seriously affect how that person in the city lived. Rural landholders are in a similar position if they are told they must not work the land that is part of their income producing base. They have to amend their lifestyle to adjust to a different income from a smaller area.

**Stewardship payments for desirable and approved voluntary environmental works on private land would seem to be the most effective way of involving landholders and farmers. An agreement to keep land out of production and/or as a permanent conservation area could both attract payments at a different level.**

Farmers still have to pay council rates on non productive land and **some form of rate relief would be of assistance** however this may have to be adjusted with local councils as this would erode their income.

Yours faithfully

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