

**Native Vegetation Regulation Review**

**Level 12, PO Box A290**

**Sydney South NSW 1232.**

**FP Murphy**

**[REDACTED]**

**Moree Plains Shire**

**Dear Sir**

I wish to make a submission to this inquiry to ask for fairness and balance in the review of native vegetation regulations. The whole question of what farmers can do on freehold land has been unfairly tilted in favour of locking everything up and automatically saying no to every request to thin invasive weeds or remove single trees from existing cultivation. Before we can clear invasive native scrub I was told it had to be behaving invasively - whatever that meant. In contrast I have to control feral animals on sight, not see if they are behaving in a feral manner. In other words if the plant is an invasive species I should be allowed to control it, not wait until it has taken over the whole paddock.

It is also very unfair that farmers are treated like criminals for clearing a few trees when mining companies have a free rein to clear state forests, nature reserves or whatever stands in their way.

This new NSW Government promised to change many things that its support base thought was bad policy from the previous government but so far has not delivered. I believe new sources of advice need to be sought as it seems all the same public servants are still around giving the same advice they gave to the ALP. The present government is acting very slowly to reform NSW as though they are guaranteed 8 or even 12 years to fix everything but unless they actually achieve something for their most loyal supporters this may not be the case - voters are very fickle these days.

In conclusion I would repeat my request for fairness in any new regulations resulting from this inquiry. The specific changes needed have been addressed very well by NSW Farmers and the regional meetings held throughout NSW but farmers will be very disappointed with the State Government if nothing substantial comes out of this process.

**Yours Sincerely**

*Philip Murphy*

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