

PETER CANNON . submission

The greatest hindrance to increased productivity in rural NSW is the no change of landuse.

With the latest minimum tillage techniques and development of the latest crop and pasture varieties land that was considered marginal in decades gone by can now be economically and profitably developed.

It is very necessary that farmers have flexibility to change their enterprise mix as world markets develop and as seasons unfold.

In my role in NSW Farmers Association I travel widely throughout the State. I am very aware of the huge increase in regrowth and the detrimental effect of invasive species on farmers bottom line and the inadequacy of the current legislation to deal with these issues. Just some examples are Lippia on the northern river floodplains African Lovegrass on the Monaro Fireweed in coastal regions Serrated Tussock on the tablelands and Invasive Native Scrub Species throughout the western slopes and plains.

To deliver a practical and positive triple bottom line under current circumstances introduced crop and pasture species must be given equal recognition as environmental assets along with native vegetation.

CMA's should be emphasizing the need for agronomic management of soil nutrition improved pasture management and sustainable cropping programs. It is current policy of NSW Farmers Association that it is necessary that vegetation officers and bureaucracy of OEH and CMA's are put through agronomy and farm finance courses.

To enhance an environmental outcome regional landscape planning needs to take the place of individual PVP's. the combination of some of the original vegetation plans put together with farmers in the 90's plus public land stock routes and major riparian areas could be combined in a regional plan leaving farmers to get on with the job of remediation and development without the huge current impost of ridiculous area of offset.

The substantial cost of regrowth and invasive native scrub control warrants the need for flexibility in future management. Farmers can not afford ongoing costs of stick raking and spot spraying. The country needs to be cleaned up and farmed to get on top of the seed bank of invasive species in the soil. If the regrowth reappears it can then be quickly and economically recultivated.

It is over 17 years since SEPP46 was imposed. In that time generations of young would be farmers have had to find alternate career paths due to the current restrictive and unrealistic environmental legislation of the Native Vegetation Act and the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

The legislation is outdated and not working. It is time the NSW State Government worked with farmers to develop legislation that will deliver a practical and positive economic social and environmental outcome.

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Motion

That this meeting demand the NSW State Government work with farmers to replace the restrictive, broken and outdated Native Vegetation Act with legislation delivering –

- a) Flexibility in change of landuse, change of production enterprise, control of regrowth and management of invasive species.
- b) Emphasis on agronomic management of soil nutrition, pasture management and sustainable cropping programs, and recognition of them as an environmental asset.
- c) A practical and positive triple bottom line, incorporating regional landscape planning in place of individual PVP's