

Biodiversity Legislation Review



5/9/2014

Dear Sir

My submission to your review is in favour of relaxing clearing regulations in NSW so farmers can make the best use of their assets as they see fit.

We live in a free market economy and the market values cleared land at a much higher price than land covered with native vegetation. While ever this situation exists farmers will risk big fines and even a criminal record to clear their land. If a certain region has unique trees or plants then the state can preserve some of it in a national park or state forest. Farmers are not here to preserve the environment as it was before Captain Cook arrived.

As a wheat farmer I also dislike the way the law favours mining companies to clear any vegetation they want to including national parks, while we are restricted from growing more food. We have little chance of feeding Asia as some politicians talk about while our hands are tied behind our backs by restrictive legislation.

25% of my land is timbered but is very fertile land if cleared. We live in the Moree Plains Shire and therefore the land is suitable for a wide range of winter and summer crops but on that 25% we are confined to running cattle.

There is plenty of potential land in Australia capable of running cattle but not a lot of safe farming country to produce food.

I believe it should be allowed to become more productive. The country here is mostly scattered coolibah/wilga trees with invasive species creeping in eg. sandlewood trees and lippia grass. There aren't as many trees or grasses per hectare as some higher rainfall areas so growing wheat plants at 50 plants per square metre every year probably uses up more carbon dioxide than mature coolibah trees anyway.

In conclusion I hope your review will be listened to by the State Government and not used as a way of postponing any action until after the next election. Farmers want some change after years of the Labour Government and three years of inaction from the present government.

F P Murphy