

SUBMISSION BIODIVERSITY LEGISLATION REVIEW
5TH September 2014-09-05

Conservation of biodiversity should include farm animals, crops and pasture species in addition to native Australian species. It should also be acknowledged that Australian farm animals and introduced species have established the value of their activities in enhancing native Australian ecologies and mitigating fire risk. It is ignored most or all of our most valuable conservation lands and water ways have had a multicultural rural community guiding these rich biodiverse areas through to what have been recent land and water claims for national park, wilderness, marine park etc. city water catchment. These areas exist on the legacy of much volunteer effort by rural communities and multicultural approaches astute enough to build on enhance secure natural values by people acting variously as farmers, foresters and fishermen.

Their knowledge and astute long committed work has been trivialised and belittled in a very disgraceful political process to gain exclusive access to these areas to pick off biodiversity for the horticultural industry, the aquaculture industry, the pharmacological and medicinal industry, wilderness tourism, university research junkets, city water sales, sub divisions for lifestyle blocks among other issues with and without connection to international treaties signed off on behalf of a clique without the consultation with the Australian people whose assets are being bargained with.

I and others, ask who owns this biodiversity richness, plant variety rights, intellectual property and where do the profits end up? Are the paying public asked to subsidise the R&D for a few if it all works and bank roll all that does not reach expectations?

What of the rural communities work for 100s if not 1000s of years that protected this material from colonial exploitations and short sightedness of bringing in plague rabbits to dig up and chew over Australia's soils and vegetation such the water ways and fisheries are covered in a film of sediment?

In NSW we have a system of travel routes paid for up keep by farmers called travelling stock routes. These are being groomed for biodiversity corridors of green and used to function as emergency grazing and summer relief movement of livestock for the dry inland and high country water sheds. This activity functioned to reduce stagnation of vegetation along rivers up to the water shed. Biodiversity of wildflowers, native grasses, flowering shrubs, trees thrived with the passage and disturbance of moving mobs. These mobs were fire mitigating and enhancing biodiversity in addition to

just "cheap grazing" for which farmers have paid for in cash and kind for 100+ years. Over the recent decades grazing and forest leases in the high rainfall zones along river flood zones these biodiverse rich areas have been used as empire building blocks for the politically upward buying swinging votes and careers with the conservation achievement of others.

Yes most of what is now NSW national parks were grazing and forestry leases and or fisheries, where the aggressive species of weeds pest animals (rabbit carp foxes cats dingo local and introduced plants etc) were moderated if not fully removed to achieve national park status. Roads were built around forest giants, avoided swamps, farmers looked after their paddock wildlife in many cases for generations. These have only recently become claimable rare and threatened species by blow in experts looking for government grants and junkets which may involve dispossessing the rural communities with their knowledge and commitment essential for these species to continue to persist.

In many cases from the rare species point of view this process in outcome is a threatening to lethal process. Destocking enforced by harbouring dingo packs and industrial strength fire suppression has led to mass extinction events, water loss, death of fisheries sedimentation of reservoirs and such on a grand scale.

Universities and bureaucracies have not been held to account for the destruction, best intended or not, for the destruction of masses of eastern Australia and coastal environments. As a cover up more land and water is grabbed for a photo opportunity and environmentalism is tracked by satellite by the canopy burnt forests, dysfunctional regrowth, the more and more declared rare threatened and extinct species dying out because of policy failure. The captive breeding programs, are more about covering Australia's growing unemployment figures because the renewable and astute industries are being closed down and shifted off shore.

Shifted off shore is also our biodiversity of gum trees, fish, yabbies, cut flowers, tourist resort ownership, the list is never ending and who gave whose permission or asked for royalties or compensation for knocking off Australia's biodiversity and possibly markets into the future. Currently we are importing eucalyptus oil from China??? Why is it declared non viable for local industries??? Because of our restrictive laws and legislators living in ivory antisocial towers or various vested interests of those people with connections?

Many years ago Australian selected Merino rams were exported to Asia such all those generations of selection were dispersed? Australian dairy farmers were deregulated disrupted and undermined for irrigation water what ever and years of dairy cow genetics were shipped off shore for almost meat values? Is this not part of Australia's biodiversity?

Dairy heifers and merino sheep were an integral part of working the stock routes and native forests maintaining wildflowers, fire safe red gum, snow gum, alpine ash mountain plum pine forests and colonies with the broad tooth rat, the pygmy possum, leadbeater possum, smoke mouse, pink eared toadlet..... Destocking big animal activity out of ecologies that have coevolved interdependent with big animal activity in Australia for 20 million or more years has been a disaster for native plants animals and unknown undocumented insects fungi etc. dying ecologies from starvation stagnation overt competition and predation finally repeated incineration.

Kakadu has lost abundance and complexity of ground fauna biodiversity by 65% 75% in the last decade. How much else has it lost when it was a biodiversity rich area for 1000s of years cool burnt groomed by water buffalo, donkey, camel variously local communities doing what they were doing in combination and unobstructed until Kakadu was taken for salvation.

Kosciuszko was confiscated variously from 1944 to 2003. Many common and abundant species are or have disappeared or are disappearing under current mismanagement.

People cropping wheat where the rabbit plague destroyed the saltbush plains and grazing leases were happy that the travelling stock routes had recovered various native species until the tourist road was put through obliterating the wildlife as road kill, bulldozed the bush apricots, the flowers and grasses. The stock routes closed down to save them because it was inconvenient for traffic. This cut the life blood from the plant genetics becoming inbred among the plants not grazed or browsed not cool fired not trampled manured seed redistributed with essential root zone fungi. The blow in experts from some European institution of indoctrination are more than happy to blame the grazing era for the disappearances off the travel routes the destinations and gone now from the cropping belt it appears.

We wont talk about the rabbits that come and constantly pick off the regeneration. Sheep or cattle blamed for trampling or close

grazing. The Landcare programs that failed because it did not remove that last 1 rabbit per hectare from the rehabilitation site.

No one talks about the toxic dead mulch burying the wildflowers that have disappeared on the abandoned stock routes no one can cool burn because smoke is a traffic hazard. What of the orchids and Australian plants that gear their lifecycle around cool fire. Lets blame the grazing era anyway. What about the rare species of orchids and gum in Victoria that reappeared and flourished after the horror fires sent smoky rainfall across the area? Species that had not appeared for decades muchless grew in abundance as a result of being rained on with smoky water.

Rural communities are becoming very jaded with this biodiversity gravy train having more to do with endangered employment streams rather than good outcomes for minor species of Australian plants and animals. Conservation area management needs significant review in practice and effect. Removal of the manipulative and corrupt effects of this group of legislations.

I am willing to prepare some material to present to the review committee as time arises such some context be put around these matters of biodiversity and how to genuinely enhance and secure by supportive legislation and views.

Yours Sincerely
Noeline Franklin

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Noeline Franklin.