

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish you to consider the following points in your deliberations on the matter of selective land clearing in NSW. It is the viewpoint of a person who owns some 75,000 acres of land, 50,000 of which are sown annually to a rotation of canola, wheat, barley, lupins and field peas, many thousands of which are windbreaks, natural habitat, and wooded hills. I wish to have the right to clear the occasional lone tree in a cleared paddock, (perhaps just a percentage of one percent of my entire holdings), for the following reasons;

1. Aviation Safety;

In some crops and under some conditions we use agricultural aircraft. A single tree in an otherwise bare paddock presents an unacceptable risk, particularly when flying into the rising or setting sun. Tragically, I speak from personal experience, I lost a very dear friend, Gavin Thomson, to such a tree.

2. Wideline Farming Practices.;

The key to success in Australian farming is aggregation, economies of scale, and the use of wideline equipment. In a competitive subsidized international market with little or no government assistance for Australian farmers, we need to embrace modern technologies. But it's impossible with a tree in the middle of the paddock. Satellite navigation with tram tracking can rarely work around one tree...it results in an expensive waste of time or a doubling up of seed, fertilizer or chemical.

3. Occupational Health and Safety Issues;

When we are harvesting or sowing around the clock, there is an unacceptably dangerous risk that while concentrating on the header front, or while simply lulled by the repetition, the machinery operator will run into the tree, resulting in severe injury or death at worst, or expensive downtime and repairs.

4. Noxious Weed Control;

Birds naturally roost in the trees, and the seeds of noxious weeds such as South African Box Thorn are carried in their faeces, and thrive under the trees. Other noxious weeds also thrive, and owing to the previously discussed Practice of wideline application, they usually miss out on eradication, making Overall noxious weed eradication difficult or impossible.

I am not asking you to condone widescale clearing of vegetation, just the occasional tree which no longer fits into the Australian agricultural farming landscape.

Thanking you in anticipation,
David Bartter