

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
Cc: [Beaudesert Electorate Office](#)  
Subject: Inquiry - barrier fence  
Date: Friday, 5 February 2016 12:14:07 PM

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Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am a grower and marketer of finger limes (citrus australasica) and trade as The Lime Caviar Company Pty Ltd (ACN 006 281 090). We are a significant exporter. See [www.limecaviar.net](http://www.limecaviar.net) and [Facebook.com/TheLimeCaviarCompany](https://Facebook.com/TheLimeCaviarCompany).

The farm is located high in the Scenic Rim mountains south of Rathdowney - 28.3136 S / 152.8477 E. The farm's southern fence is the "rabbit proof" fence that is the subject of the Committee's enquiry. See Google Earth photos below. The 13 hectare property is unique in that its title extends to the Queensland / New south Wales border - and is subject only to the rabbit proof fence easement .

For more than 30 years - as experienced by me - the fence has been regularly maintained and kept in good functioning condition by diligent employees of the Board.

Such maintenance activities ceased - I believe - in late in 2015.

As a consequence, the fence bordering the farm and for at least two kilometres east and west is now in serious disrepair.

Such disrepair is due to the falling of rainforest trees, the growth of weeds and nil maintenance.

Rainfall in our area during 2015 exceeded 65 inches (165cm). In late January 2016 we received 12cm in 30 minutes. Rainfall of that kind means that there will be ongoing tree-falls that will destroy the fence's integrity unless it is maintained.

If maintenance of the fence is brought to an end or scaled back, the result - in not less than two years - will be that it will be fully over grown by trees and weeds and it will cease functioning as a fence, rabbit proof or otherwise.

The rainforest on both the Queensland side and the New South Wales side of the fence is National park - see the Lamington National Park Management Plan 2011 - and contains trees that are regularly over 30m high. It is beyond the capacity of any individual to remove trees of that size when they fall, as they do regularly, across the fence.

I believe that the fence has served its primary purpose - in 30 years I have never seen a rabbit on the Queensland side of the fence in our location.

I ask that the fence continue to be maintained as it has been in the past.

Sincerely,

Ian Douglas QC  
[REDACTED]

Running Creek  
Qld 4287

