

25 Feb 2016

To Research Director,  
The Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000

**Submission: the enquiry into Barrier Fences Queensland**

In 30 years of being involved and living with the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Fence (DDMRF) along our southern boundary fence I am very aware of its role it plays and ongoing maintenance. In all that time I have never seen a rabbit along the fence of the western section of the Border Ranges National Park. I have contact with numerous people who have walked the fence over the years and who also agree. The idea that rabbits would trample through kilometres of elevated sub tropical rainforest seems far fetched. Certainly the fence, having been totally dysfunctional for many kilometres along the border behind Lamington National Park for at least 30 years probably bears out that fact.

However I do understand that in open areas conducive to rabbits that the fence may make a contribution to keeping them out of Queensland.

Importantly I see the fence playing a vital role in keeping cattle out of the Gondwana World Heritage Area National Parks. The area I am familiar with, namely the western section of the Border Ranges National Park including Levers Plateau directly behind us, is protected from cattle ingress by the fence. For example a neighbouring Queensland land holder has allowed his cattle to range up to the fence then along it and back down into Wild Mountains Nature Refuge in order to access water in Camp Creek which begins in our property. This has happened on several occasions usually when drought conditions are prevalent. If the DDMRF weren't in place these cattle could more easily access water by simply crossing 100m into Levers Plateau causing irreparable damage to Long Creek (and potentially Surveyors and Plateau Creeks) and the pristine habitat, while bringing in potential pathogens and weeds, fouling the water, eroding banks and thus compromising the integrity of the Gondwana WHA Outstanding Universal Values.

So it will be extremely important that if the fence is no longer funded, a strategy be devised that will resolve this issue and not place increasing pressure on this World Heritage Area.

Yours faithfully



Richard Zoomers

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Properties that run cattle which adjoin the Gondwana WHA border fence:

**Mt Lindesay section:**

Lot: 177, Plan: WD988, Area: 510,060 m<sup>2</sup>

Lot: 80, Plan: WD3138, Area: 342,720 m<sup>2</sup>

Lot: 191, Plan: WD2377, Area: 264,000 m<sup>2</sup>

Lot: 174, Plan: WD851, Area: 517,160 m<sup>2</sup>

Lot: 199, Plan: WD726, Area: 183,830 m<sup>2</sup>

**Livers Plateau section:**

Lot: 10, Plan: SP108582, Area: 1,670,000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Livers Plateau - Lamination section:**

in the west

Lot: 1, Plan: RP46648, Area: 1,130,640 m<sup>2</sup>

to the east

Lot: 4, Plan: RP108014, Area: 2,563,700 m<sup>2</sup>