

I wish to make the following submission:

4. Thinning

Area limits . Thinning Permits should be over the whole property. Areas to thinned defined on the RE's on the property. Due to amalgamation of leases which was encouraged by past Governments and Departments eg where there were five lots now only one lot. Properties in the South West of the State are 30 000 ha to 150 000 ha some in one lot. It is absurd that a 30 000 ha property can thin 1.3% but a 400 ha property in four lots can thin 10%.

5.1

The original description in 1846 for the Mulga Lands was "Open Woodland". Where were the Science for the numbers in Table 1 found. E.g. very sparse 500 tree per ha. On 10 000 ha would be 5 million trees. Thinning at the required rate would result in still 2 million trees. Bob Hawke was going to plant a million trees. He obviously never visited the Mulga Lands.

5.2

What is a thicket? An area with no Bio Diversity or native fauna? Vegetation structure has changed from grassland to shrubland and woodland. It is estimated that approximately 160 trees per ha canopy cover of approximately 6% provides the best balance between pasture production and land stability. (Royal Commission 1901 Western Lands NSW which adjoins the Mulga Lands) massive shrub density to the detriment of grasslands.

Fodder Harvesting

Facts.

- In 1847 the Mulga Lands were described as Open Woodland.
- Mulga Harvesting has been practiced since 1886
- 80 -90% of the Mulga Lands would have been harvested at least twice some up to 6 times

Still Millions of ha of Mulga.

Mulga Harvesting is NOT Clearing. Authors who use this word should check the Oxford Standard Dictionary for a definition of clearing. Mulga Harvesting is not developing a property but is instead using a natural resource to feed stock in dry times which is then left to regenerate for the next dry time.

Photographs of Mulga Lands in the 1950's show vast areas of grassland which are now Mulga Forests.

The use of dozers in Mulga Harvesting breaks up the seeds, creates a fine seed bed and encourages regrowth of Mulga.

All research shows Mulga Harvesting done on a Landscape Scale which is the whole area of the Property gives better outcomes for the Mulga Lands than that done in an isolated corner or similar.

With this new Legislation all the consultation, meetings and round table discussions on Mulga for the last 18 years has been wasted. We are now back to where we were in 1999. Since then environmentalists, graziers, government departments and scientists had moved to the whole of Property concept which was working well.

It seems strange that property managers who have amalgamated their property lots only gets 500 ha to harvest but the same size property that is still in maybe 5 lots gets 2500 ha.

One Vegetation Management rule to govern the whole of Queensland is ludicrous. We in the south west arid zone are lumped in with the wet tropics, small blocks near Brisbane, coastal wet lands and other equally as unequal areas.

I feel that the compiling of this new legislation has been hastily done with little thought to the

implementation or the monetary impost it will have on property owners.

We have only had since 6 March to examine the document and this is not giving us nearly enough time to reply adequately. The Minister was heard to say we had had since the election. However the details of the new Vegetation Management act were not public until 6 March with the changes coming into effect on 8 March.