


**From:**   
**To:** [SDNRAIDC](#)  
**Subject:** SDNRAIDC Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 9:24:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Tony Lilburne and I am 60 years of age. I was brought up in the pastoral industry and three quarters of my life has been spent in the mulga country both in management roles and now in a rural agency in the heart of the mulga country.

After a lifetime of involvement with the mulga lands and listening to the older generation talking about these lands I really don't think the people pushing for all these new clearing laws have any idea about mulga country or for that matter gidyea country.

I have seen properties that had open mulga Mitchell grass country in the 1960's with the odd mulga tree and blood wood, now this country is just an ocean of mulga. My father showed me country in the Quilpie district that in 1939 was open grass country when he was a boy, now it is all mulga. I could go on with similar stories.

I have had the privilege of listening to old timers of this vast state of ours and the NT talk about how nature kept our open and semi open lands clear of timber. This was from vast bushfires that burnt back then for days and sometimes months. These fires were started by lightning. These fires burnt most of the young timbers growing and left some odd older trees letting the grass forge ahead after rains.

Then along came the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80s, where our machinery got better, bigger and faster, in went the firebreaks, the roads and as soon as a fire started the graziers had it out. Believe me as twelve year old child we helped at fires and fought a few fires up until the age of 30, I have not really seen a fire since.

I ask the question, how many politicians know the percentage of Australian nesting birds in the grass to the percentage that nest in trees. I would nearly say the majority of graziers know.

They try their upmost best to keep our ecosystem going only to have their hands tied by a mob of people that have no ties to this land or idea of how it really works.

I can only say that these laws will not only break the people living on this land but also the small communities that survive on the businesses drawn from the properties in these mulga lands.

Kind regards,

***Tony Lilburne***

