

From: [1](#)
To: [SDNRAIDC](#)
Subject: SDNRAIDC Committee
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We have real concerns regarding the proposed changes to vegetation management laws. Our main concerns lie in the areas of Mulga - stock fodder and regrowth, as well as management of regrowth.

We were quite satisfied with the pre-March rules surrounding the thinning of Mulga as fodder for stock. These rules, and the responsible management of our mulga stands, allow us to drought-proof our property. Without the ability to utilise this valuable stock feed source, we would be much more reliant on government assistance in times of drought. We allow our mulga to regenerate in good seasons, in time to be controlled during hard times, allowing it to be brought back to manageable levels. If left unchecked, this woody weed would choke out all other vegetation, as demonstrated in the nearby Thrushton National Park. Although this park is a wonderful example of old-growth mulga, we challenge you to find more than a handful of other trees that are able to survive there as a result of being taken over by this single species.

The portions of our property that are not mulga lands are box and wilga, which we sensibly control in order to allow the growth of grasses, allowing our beef operation to be successful. Without the ability to control regrowth, our operation will simply not be viable as there is not enough carrying capacity without removing some trees. We have a PMAV, of which large areas of our property are coloured. This is respected and those stands of timber are nurtured for the sake of biodiversity, however, we need to be able to control the white areas of our PMAV or our beef operation will simply fold.

We fear the proposed law changes will negatively impact us, our family, our businesses and our community. Generations of cattle producers have kept these lands well, and we had hoped our four girls would be the next to do so. These law changes are more than likely to make that a dream their parents once had, never to have been a realistic goal. This will be the case for many of our neighbours as well, and community after community will dwindle and die, all for the sake of a lack of understanding as to the types of tree control we do.

Brett and Sandy Southern