

Our family operates a USDA Organic beef, sheep, farming operation in Western Queensland. Our properties all have 30% mulga eco systems. Our families have been in the production of food and fibre for five generations, we would not have survived 92 years without the sustainable management of our mulga ecosystems.

When mother nature fails us with no rain, since 2000 it has been horrendous, drought after drought with up to 7 missed summer rains - 12 unproductive years in the last 18. The nucleus of our breeding herd and flock has to be sustained on mulga through these years. Being an organic producer means that organic agistment is never available and if livestock are moved onto a non organic property they can never move back to the organic system.

After 92 years in the production of food and fibre, we know what works! The use of more rules and regulations is unacceptable. Unfortunately, political agenda will not allow harmony with an industry and community reliant on mulga for their survival with the current changes to the legislation. The 7 year drought we are still in has community moral and finances totally exhausted. We are the last surviving communities in Western Queensland, there will be no one to take our places if we are strangled by agenda driven politicians.

By 2050 the world has to increase its food production by a minimum of 75%, 70% of the earth is covered in water. Queensland is 172 million hectares. The mulga ecosystem in Western Queensland covers 19 million hectares, 8% of Queensland, similar to the size of Victoria. Would you shut down a land mass the size of Victoria in unworkable legislation? Of course not! National parks cover 13.6 million hectares or 7% of Queensland. The Brisbane region covers 1.5 million hectares with 2.4 million people. According to Abare's 15/16 report the gross value of agricultural production, not processing, in the greater Brisbane region was \$951,000,000 which was 7% of the total gross value of agriculture production in Queensland. So, according to Abare the greater Brisbane region is on 1.5 million hectares, your production for 2015/16 was poultry \$268,000,000, cattle and calves \$129,000,000 and strawberries \$84,000,000. Why the figures? Because it shows the enormity of the problem of producers transporting their livestock and produce to the greater Brisbane region for processing. Our cattle are processed there also, thus this processed beef is credited to the Brisbane region and not the Western Qld region making our region look, on paper, to be low in production, which is so not the case.

The UN Agenda 2030 goal two states - End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Therefore, don't use political force and ignorance to drive rural communities into extinction with the new proposed vegetation management laws.

In conclusion Edward Munds 18th Century political writer wrote when commenting about food and politicians "Don't bite the hand that feeds you!"

Jeffrey Lloyd