

SDNRAIDC

From: kathie stanyer
Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2018 7:36 AM
To: SDNRAIDC
Subject: Vegetation management

Categories: SUBMISSIONS

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to you concerning the new harsh vegetation management laws proposed by the government. I am a grazier 100km north west of Charleville and we manage 72 000 acres which comprised of river flats, some open downs country and mulga. We are currently running around 900 head of cattle.

We are very concerned about the proposed changes to the vegetation management act and the severe and unfair fines to be imposed on our Aussie farming families.

I feel there needs to be clear distinction made for **permanent tree clearing** and **non permanent clearing** for fodder and farm production which will regrow and thicken. To lump the two together is uneducated.

On our property we grow beautiful Mulga. Mulga is an Aussie native acacia (wattle tree) and it is natural to the landscape. It does not require fertilisers to grow, no expensive equipment to sow and no pesticides. It is the ultimate in sustainability and is a totally renewable fodder resource which we harvest to feed our starving cattle in drought times. Mulga grows thick and needs to be managed or it will choke itself and die in time. What a shame if cattle producers are restricted or prohibited to use a naturally growing, naturally regenerating resource to feed starving cattle to produce beef for export and supply the local market. In the drought, when there is bare dirt on the ground we have **mulga + bore water + lick supplements**. The cattle are able to survive and breed during this time. To reduce the amount we can harvest will decrease our cattle numbers and make us unviable.

Farming is to be valued. Without it we will starve. With each family leaving the land in despair their leaves a vacancy for foreign ownership and absentee land owners. With each family being forced off because government red tape has become a noose around our necks there too goes intimate knowledge and understanding of how their property works and functions to be a viable business. Not many from the younger generation are returning to the land, I cannot see city people rushing out here to do what we do. Government would do very well to look after the farmers we have and support them in doing the hard yards of food production.

We have seen what has happened to the domestic gas market when too much gas gets exported. If too much land is foreign owned then we leave ourselves wide open for our local grown produce to be exported to fulfil their overseas contracts. Who will be left to feed us in the domestic market? It's time we woke up and valued the contribution of farming families in our state before it is too late.

The excessive and forceful fines proposed are totally unaustralian. We are farming families who love our work, love the land and love to produce food. We don't need to be bullied and intimidated by fines that treat us like criminals by those who live in inner city areas who don't have a clue about what happens out here.

These new proposed law changes will never see our land return to pristine wilderness, it will only see it degenerate into weeds, feral animals and a huge food shortage as food production decreases as our population increases.

Yours faithfully,

Kathleen Stanyer