

SUBMISSION

Our family has been on our property now for over 100 years. It is currently being managed by the 4th generation with the 5th generation just finished their schooling and wanting to eventually come back and take over the running and management. Due to the drought over the last 6 or more years the financial, physical and emotional hardship of it all has taken its toll. Now with the amending of the vegetation management act it will have a far greater impact on us then maybe the last few years of drought has.

We have used tree clearing as a tool to help increase grass production we have also used thinning techniques to thin out timber that has thickened in timbered areas where the thickening of the trees has caused the death of the larger trees by choking them out as well as the degrading of the soil as suckers get that thick that nothing else can grow. And when it does rain the water is running off taking with it valuable top soil. If there was grass growth this soil would be held in place and the water would have more chance of being taken up by the soil. Encroachment of trees, especially gidgee on once open grass land country is also an issue as this gidgee encroachment is having a detrimental effect on the health of the land, causing erosion, excessive water run off and a lack of grass and herbage growth.

Improving pastures by use of thinning and regrowth control is not something that we can do in one go. When we do this type of work it is dictated by finances, seasons and availability of equipment. We also must be sure that the paddocks can be spelled afterwards so that the land can rejuvenate. The current self-assessable system that is place allows us to do the above in a way that is holistic for not just the land but us as well.

We care for our country, other wise we would not have been here for as long as we have and we take pride in being able to run our operation in a sustainable and holistic way so that should our children and future generations with to they have a future here on the land. We also employ as locally as we can and if we cannot run an effective, profitable and sustainable business then we won't be able to employ locally and support our local economy which is important to us as well.

Signed:	Jody Marina Murray
Address:	
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