

**SDNRAIDC**

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**From:** Heidi Harris  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 4:10 PM  
**To:** SDNRAIDC  
**Subject:** SDNRAIDC committee

**Categories:** SUBMISSIONS

Dear Ms Palaszczuk,

I am a mother of four primary school aged children. I am also the daughter of a grazier, wife of a constitutional lawyer and mother figure to three teen/young adult boys.

My husband lives and works in Brisbane while the children and I live in Crows Nest. I work the farm alongside my ageing father, and the only wages I receive are monies I earn breaking in and selling horses for other people. My clients are often other cattle producers who are generally too old to be breaking or bringing back into work fresh horses.

Your vegetation management laws effect me. They effect me because as my father ages, he will be forced to continue labouring to ensure that none of the regrowth is more than 15 years old, and as his physical capacity diminishes, I, and my son's will be forced to labour alongside him to ensure that the farm remains an asset rather than a liability.

My sons are presently aged 6 and 8. They already can handle a grubba to chip out native seedlings, Lantana, wild cotton, Paterson's curse, thornapple, Ngurah burr and a large host of other introduced pests which are constantly sprouting up in our pastures. Every Saturday they do several hours of labour on the farm-chipping, burning rubbish or pulling out stumps of long dead ring barked trees with chains and a chainblock. But surely at their age that is enough. Or do you expect us to work our children into the ground in an effort to save their inheritance while millions of city children spend their hours outside school playing computer games and surfing the internet?

I also eat meat. I like meat. I eat bread. I like that too. I also like vegetables. I would like to keep feeding such things to my family. Your laws effect me because time is money, and stock must eat.

Who has considered the practicalities of what you are forcing onto farmers whose primary production is only viable through fodder harvesting? I know how many hours there are in a day, and I know what it feels like to be working flat stick for every single daylight hour there is, just trying to keep stock alive. I know the look an animal gets in its eye, right before they give in and the life just slips away. I know what it is like to look at a beautiful creature who has given everything they've got, know that I too have given everything I've got, and that it wasn't enough. To know I have failed them; to then lift a gun, tell them 'I'm sorry' and squeeze the trigger.

If an application for fodder harvesting gets held up, are you Ms Palaszczuk going to feel the pinch? Are you going to compensate our farmers? Because there is no dollar value that makes watching a beast die a slow and agonising death by starvation worthwhile. Are you going to guarantee approval of applications within 3 days? And what if an application is rejected? What of the time and energy our farmers must invest to reapply. Have you considered the cost for farmers? In monetary expense, time expense and stress expense? With all that added COST, how many farmers do you expect to still be farming by the next wet season?

Less viable land means less farmers, less production, less products, more demand and ultimately higher cost to consumers. Are you going to increase family tax so that I can continue to feed my family meat and bread once you have reduced the profitability of primary production?

The increase in fines and in the power of authorised persons, and the complete erosion of a person's rights as a property holder make me ill. You are stepping on people's rights to enjoy and use their land, to pass on the inheritance of many generations.

On a seperate note, native vegetation is extremely flammable. With increased tracks of unmanaged land will come a greatly increased risk of severe bushfire. Has your government considered how to manage this increased threat to people, wildlife and livestock? A glance at the road verges tells me that crown land is rarely managed. You leave your land fester as a breeding ground for introduced pests which negatively impacts producers in their war against such intrusive species. Every year we spray back all the Lantana that

spreads onto our fences from your land. Of course in places where we have unmaintained native vegetation spraying is not possible, by vehicle or on foot, so we control Lantana by literally crawling in under each bush, cutting it off at the base with an axe to administer roundup. Given the steep terrain and light composition of our soil, it is imperative that we maintain minimal soil disturbance to avoid erosion and this means very minimal vehicle use. We use horses to check fences, water and livestock, and rely heavily upon the assistance of dogs when mustering. I feel genuinely appalled that certain members of our state believe farmers to be so inconsiderate of the environment and the needs of their varying land types, when the state itself fails to maintain its own land.

Kind regards,

Heidi Harris.