

SUBMISSION

This is a submission on rejection of the changes proposed in the Vegetation Management and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

I am the Guardian of two young men who are orphans. They will inherit the property their parents purchased and improved and that my husband and I continue to improve so that they might have a viable parcel of land.

They, like I would say most young people on the land, are confused and angry about the restrictions that are placed on landholders and how the media and radical groups portray anybody on the land whether they produce food or fibre.

Social Media and the media went viral over Dolly's Dream, I wonder how this constant pressure and fear affects the young people. I think most kids have a dream to take over the property when mum and dad get too old, but will they be able to survive all these restrictions that at times is nothing short of Bullying that the government and media smother us with. The boys say it is a lot like school one kid is naughty and the whole class is punished and then that kid gets an award the next week as he did a good day at school after being suspended at home for a week for bad behaviour.

These young people, that are often made out to be not as bright as their city cousins, love the land and want to go back on the land, want to feel pride that they are providing food and the only way we can get enough food to feed the growing population is to improve the pastures and waters.

They need to be encouraged, given the scientific evidence and the skills to continue on the land. They also need to be able to give their opinion and be heard.

They are saddened that every other culture is admired for listening to their elders. Their elders who cleared the land and improved the pastures, as this was a requirement, are made out to be bad. I wonder how many people Australia would be able to feed and wonder the outcome of who would be left in Australia if no one ever improved in order to be more productive. Famine and wars go hand in hand. Thankfully this has never happened to us.

So, please just be mindful that Agriculture and those that are prepared to work in the sometimes toughest office, need to be treated well. Yes we are a minority but a minority with a big heart that feeds so many. We are also an aging minority that need vibrant young farmers to carry on this important role. We all know the effect of constant criticism and strict laws it makes a bitter society and has the reverse effect with people having no respect for the law and the consequences.

So in conclusion I want these 2 boys and our own son to be proud of the properties that have been developed through the years and be proud of their parents. I want them to be financially viable. I know that there will be times when the weather and global markets will turn their worlds upside down and I hope that we will have given them enough guidance so

that they can handle this. I want them even as grown men to marvel at nature and look out for weeds!

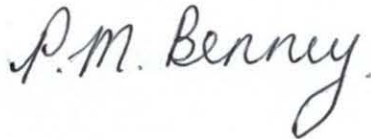
But I don't want them to be cranky, fearful, depressed men with no respect for leaders because of constant law changes and criticism from minority groups. I don't want them to be ashamed to write their occupation (Grazier or Beef Producer) or to wear their boots and hats in a city. I want them to feel confident and eager to liaise with Government Departments to ask for advice and seek out current trends and research without fear and trepidation.

Please make Laws fair and do not blame landholders for so many things just for the sake of having someone to blame.

Please let's all work it out together.

Patricia Benney

22/03/2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.M. Benney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'P' and a trailing flourish at the end.