

31st March 2018

Dear Mr Whiting,

I write asking your consideration of some amendments to the Vegetation Management legislation currently being debated.

My request is that the MulgaLands be identified as a separate and recognizable bio region under the Act.

The reasons are that the MulgaLands region
is easily identifiable,
is unnecessarily the center of much of the contention about 'tree clearing',
has been in drought for 7 years and is just starting to get some rain,
is the heart of Queensland's sheep and wool industry, which is the primary economic engine and employer in the MulgaLands,

I respectfully ask for your compassion in making an exception for the MulgaLands in terms of the application of the new laws.
This could be done by exclusion of the actual mulga bush (a recognized woody weed) from the laws.

I am reminded that 20 years ago the Queensland government annually spent \$16 million trying to eradicate the goat 'pest' from western Queensland. Creative thinking turned this into a \$40 million per year industry and the major employer in Charleville.

I would hate to see an unnecessary decision defeat the benefits of great initiatives such as cluster fencing, just as those benefits start to deliver the jobs we know are coming to the MulgaLands.

It is my opinion the Vegetation Management laws would not be an issue if they did not apply to a woody weed our graziers use to keep stock alive in droughts. This weed is called mulga.

Please give my region the support I know only Labor governments will and allow an exception for the mulga.

In gratitude for your consideration.

Mark O'Brien