

Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee
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To The Above Committee for consideration of the situation landowners are now placed regarding the loss of Property Rights, Diminishing land asset value & productivity loss going back to Sept 46 & the impact of native Vegetation Legislation.

I am a 5th (fifth) Generation Landowner of New South Wales & have lived through, Fire, Flood cyclone & Drought all of which pale in comparison to Bureaucratic Intervention. Mr. Rudd is concerned about Bureaucratic Intervention - Health Scheme. One could ask "Why do we need an extra thirty (30) odd Expert Professionals to be employed by the C.S.I.R.O. to help manage Droughts? An announcement on ABC this week. Any Farmer or Grazier can tell the Prime Minister that rain is the only management tool necessary for the solution to the problem — with no cost involved. The money saved from those salaries could be better utilised by Landowners for the treatment of Woody weeds - Invasive native scrub on long term low.

interest loans. Treatment of woody weeds was a condition of leases in 1900-1901. Since then we have been told that "to remove a seedling is considered Broad Scale clearing" & to turn over a shovel of dirt is considered "cultivating" depending on the interpretation of the Administering Bureaucrat & whether Prosecution will follow. The Act is changed frequently at the whim of a Bureaucrat to appease Governments & The Green movement.

Prior to white settlement storms & lightning strikes created wild fires cleaning the landscape of woody weeds & kept the country productive & a food bowl for natives & wildlife. With white settlement farmers protected their animals & existence from "complete burn out." closer settlement made fire fighting more effective & prevented "Total Burn Out" of large areas - hence the explosion of woody weeds which were controlled by the Rabbit population but since the demise of the Rabbits there has been a proliferation of woody weeds & monocultures of dominate species. We now have degraded & eroded land caused by woody weed infestation as grasses are not growing in the monoculture areas with lack of fibrous roots in the soil & Native Vegetation Laws have prohibited clearing - the Bureaucrats are aware of the damage.

Our productivity is cut by land degradation to such a degree that most properties that were considered a living area in this area in 1950-60 have increased to twice their size (by purchase) to make a viable living area now & are still losing productivity with

Impact of Native Vegetation Laws.

We have lived & worked on our Property for forty-seven years & have lived through Good & Bad seasons & therefore we consider we have proved that we can manage our land. With our productivity we pay taxes & charges & create Export Earnings for the whole of Australia. Who should have more feeling for the land - someone that has book learning & a lifetime of experience or someone with book learning? Please think about the answer.

This is the Battle or Fighting Zone of New South Wales.

1. Firstly experienced by our Predecessors on settlement of the Region with plenty of promise but limited water.
2. There were Rabbit Plagues of 1930-40s.
3. More recent years of closer settlement saw better & more water conservation.
4. We fought the Rural Recession of 1970s - Production was under cost. Progress was halted through lack of finance but we diversified - because of woody weed infestation & land degradation it became necessary for clearing & cropping. We conserved our grain & hay for brought Limes & sowed down some cultivation areas to good pasture that created nitrogen & carbon also restricting heavy spear grass overload.

We have been told 'Get Bigger or Get Out'. In N.S.W. there are areas from five acres (5) to sixty thousand (60,000) plus, so it is not always the acres you have but what you do with those acres that count.

We are True conservationists preserving our God-given

Fauna & Flora - it is because of our care of these that they are here & we will keep them for future generations.

5. Our fight with our Politicians & Bureaucrats to convince them that valuable cropping & Grazing land should not be acquired for Army purposes (4 year fight).

Thanks to Senator Ron Bowell for his trip to Behar & common sense & logic.

Why can't we learn from overseas countries such as

(a) South Africa who dispossessed its farmers & are now without food for their population?

(b) Russia with its collective system - (5%) five per cent of free farmers supplied most of Russia's food until they disbanded the system - now they are well supplied with food since giving back the farms.

6. Now we have the Battle for loss of Property Right. An inquiry into Governments is needed so as we can continue to produce clean, Green food for Australians & Export for which we were renowned.

Why is the Ban on BSE Imported Beef lifted??

Our soil is like a Bank - (a) if a Bank is robbed then there is nothing left. If the soil is robbed by bloody weed then there is nothing left. (b) If you only take from the Bank one day there will be nothing there. If you only take from your soil one day there will be nothing there either.

If you live & eat you need farmers who know best how to care for the land.

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit this submission & wish to thank Senator Barnaby Joyce for his work for this inquiry.

Jessie Dunne