

Geoffrey L Swain

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12th February 2019

SUBMISSION TO PRIVATE NATIVE FORESTRY REVIEW.

My name is Geoffrey Swain and I have been a farmer and grazier all my life, grazing stock up in the Northern Tablelands for many years as well as farming on the North West Slopes and Plains. My father and grandfather were also farmers in those areas so I am well aware of the pastoral conditions in those areas.

My submission comprises comments on what I think should be considered in this Review –

I believe that the general public are not sufficiently qualified to be able to make comments re how farmers should/should not manage their own private land. The general public are not the people who have a financial interest in the sustainability of the land in question, and in many cases their comments and in-adviced input causes much stress and strain to landholders who are already finding it difficult to wend their way through all the mass of rules and regulations which are involved in running a farm these days.

Farmers and graziers have in many cases invested a large amount of money in their farms and are the ones most involved and at risk of huge financial loss, if their livelihoods are seriously impaired by unreasonable lock-up of portions of their properties.

When assessing a particular piece of land for native forestry, and for some reason the landholder is not allowed to log because of some environmental reason, then that private landholder should have the right to compensation per hectare of land to the value that the landholder could obtain by farming or grazing under normal farming or grazing practices. This is only fair.

If farmers are able to invest in some private forestry work though, that could be a win/win for both the landholder as the manager of the land, as well as the timber industry and the environment with all parties working together for sustainability.

I am aware that there are a large number of minority groups out in the community who would like to decimate the farming and grazing rights of landholders for all sorts of reasons, many of them quite bizarre and vindictive.

I know that there have to be rules and regulations for us all but I would argue that 'fair and reasonable' means much different things to different people and I would appeal to the Review Committee to consider how difficult it is already for farmers and graziers to manage their land sustainably as well as economically and still provide food and fibre for our nation, as well as a living for their families.

I consider it crucial that land managers have access to training and advisory services where appropriate, provided by practical trained people who understand the full implications of any decision which is made in regard to the particular block of land being considered.

Trusting my points can be taken into consideration when assessing the Review of Private Native Forestry.

Yours faithfully,

Geoffrey L Swain.

