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THE LEUCAENA NETWORK

*"Promoting the responsible development
of Leucaena as a productive and sustainable
agroforestry system to build stronger rural
communities."*

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Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Mr. Gavin Dwyer
Research manager
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
Melbourne 8003

Re: Submission for Friday 13th Sept.

Dear Gavin

I feel it was so opportune that we met yesterday at the Fitzroy Basin Assn. AGM. We have been trying to get the message across for two years that we have a large-scale, producer driven answer to salinity and water quality. We know that the process would be grower driven because of the proven high profitability of the Leucaena and Grass pastures System. for grazing and the potential that Leucaena has as a major timber tree.

The story is not complex but it is extensive, and so this submission will be in precis form only.

1. We represent over 90 growers and researchers
2. There are 80-100,000 hectares of Leucaena and Grass pastures established at present
3. We propose that an initial thrust alone would see a further 250,000 hectares planted in the next five years.
4. We have made a submission to the NAPSAWQ but have been met with inaction that would have broken lesser hearts.
5. We are planting in every one of the five major catchments in Queensland.
6. The Great Barrier Reef will benefit in a measurable way in a very short time if we could have the support we have been pleading for.
7. The Hon Warren Truss and the Hon Wilson Tuckey are acquainted with our proposals.
8. The Prime Minister and his Ministers, senior hydrologists and environmentalists are saying we need a producer driven answer to our water quality problems, and during the same week we have consistently been reported in the major rural press areas that we have the answer!

9. The claims that *Leucaena* is a weed have been dealt with. The three Queensland Government Agencies are in the final stages of preparing a tri-government statement on the development and use of *Leucaena*. We have excellent communication lines established with Local Government on this issue. The timber species that is being awaited expectantly by the forestry organisations of Queensland will be fully sterile. Incidentally, we expect that our quarantine authorities will not hinder the entrance of original plant material for this specifically developed hybrid. Hawaii University are the developers and the hybrid is called "K1000"
10. *Leucaena* can be grown on a high percentage of the catchments that flow into the Great Barrier Reef.
11. Support for our endeavours will mean a major impact can be made on our water, our environment generally, the economic stability of the entire region and also the stabilisation of our rural communities.

Gavin, I earnestly entreat you to take this message to your Commission.

There are so many issues involved.

We could lose our prime research facility at Queensland University with any further delays.

I would make it a matter of priority if you need my time to discuss this further.

You know how much this means to us.

We are anxious to get started. We do not fit some of the structural requirements of the NAPSAWQ because we have a multi-catchment proposal.

I have the full support of a vast source of expertise in all of this, including QDPI and plant science groups from two Universities.

As mentioned, I will simply enclose some basic material. There is much, much more!

Yours faithfully

