

My issues are very simple. In the planning scheme around Melbourne farmers (on land that is not to be subdivided) we have become second class citizens when compared to our cousins known as urban dwellers.

Our town planners don't think there is anything wrong with having paling fences hard up against farming properties. The owners of these urban blocks see as their right to throw anything and everything over the back fence. These items can be cut plants (which may be weeds or worse still poisonous to livestock) , reinforcing bar, reinforcing sheets, rocks, discarded household furniture, electrical equipment and anything else that can be heaved over the fence. You may be interested to learn that the City Of Hume municipality who are sympathetic are not willing to assist in the matter. The City of Hume still have no issue with issuing fire break notices on the farming land and must be carried out at the farmer's expense to protect the urban dwellers. This is irrespective of the issue of danger from operating a slasher in an area with hidden objects (previously thrown over the back fence by urban dwellers) that can kill anyone on the other side of the paling fence. That is sitting in a house some 3 to 4 metres inside the back fence through a window.

The other issues that arise are that Victorian regulations prohibit the use of boom sprays within 500 metres of urban zones. This has instantly quarantined a large area from cropping or risk prosecution. None of the government departments talk to each other when the planning zones are decided. This results in large areas being quarantined due to the fact that oversized agricultural machinery is effectively banned ( by road authorities)from entering many urban zones despite that fact that large areas that can be farmed are landlocked within these zones.

The other issue that many farming agricultural machinery companies are facing is that it is almost impossible to build new modern premises on larger outside a town area because TOWN planners see it as their duty to protect every square metre of farming country from inappropriate development. (As judged by them) In many cases it has to be said that these enterprises need to be situated outside town areas due to the size of the machines they are handling in cropping areas. Once again we see URBAN trained planners having no idea about the needs of the rural communities and more particularly farming. As we do have right to farm legislation in Victoria these ill-informed characters can adversely affect our farmers through inappropriate legislation.

Compare the above comments with what happens in Europe and the states where farmers have rights. All we see here is more and more farmers disengaging with community activities due solely to unfair regulations which results in increased mental anguish.

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