

Wyuna Downs
Brawamina NSW 2839

The Productivity Commission
Inquiry into Government Drought Support

Having studied the draft report I can see change is going to take place and like all other changes that have occurred over the last 40 years in the rural industries (floating the dollar, dismantling of organized marketing, the native veg act, GST and the unpaid paper work we have to do for the government and the list goes on) it will be to our detriment.

The trouble with the situation now, because of the above mentioned changes rural Australia is on the bones of it's arse. Rural producers are over worked, depressed, suicidal and many are economically at the end of their rope.

To avert rural and regional disaster when these changes you are proposing take place we have to put something back into rural and regional Australia.

My idea is for people in regional areas to play their part in the battle against global warming while helping their areas survive.

Huge areas of this country are suitable for wind and solar electricity. Every farm could be a little power station (they are already hooked to the grid).

The Bourke area has over 300 cloud free days a year

In times of drought government is called on to help people at tax payers expense
In times of drought the land suffers through over stocking
In times of drought the ecology suffers
In times of drought the people suffer sometimes in the extreme

My idea is for government to act in a facilitating role to bring together parties so regional people can produce electricity for the grid

Most farmers and graziers these days are mechanically able and would be willing to install and maintain equipment as well as supply the land

A scheme like this would have the following advantages
Graziers would for their part reduce the number of stock thus removing a lot of the drought problem
Government would not be called on to prop up areas in drought
Regular income in regional areas would help the whole country (employment)
The native flora and fauna would not be damaged
And it would help in the battle against green house gases
And because the sites would be distributed right across the landscape reliability of wind and sun would be high

Also if it could be [kept in house] as opposed to foreign investment a great deal of wealth for the nation would be generated.

I feel sure thousands of Australians would want to invest in a scheme of this nature if share prices were small and government backing and assurance were there. Mums and dads would want to help for the good of the planet as well as a dividend.

Yours etc
Paul Kelley

