

*Pristine; Partnership in Building Farm Profits.*



1 Kingston Ave,  
DAW PARK, SA , 5041  
Ph; (08) 8177 0558  
Mob; 0418 818 798  
Eml; [andrew@pristineforage.com.au](mailto:andrew@pristineforage.com.au)  
Web; [www.pristineforage.com.au](http://www.pristineforage.com.au)

23 December, 2008

The Commissioners  
Government Drought Support Enquiry  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2 Collins Street East  
Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Response to Productivity Commission 2008, Government Drought Support, Draft Inquiry Report, Melbourne.**

Accompanying is our written response to the above Draft Report. I apologise for its length; unfortunately we missed initial calls for submissions to this enquiry and in consequence, this response is our first, and therefore contains a good deal of detail and supporting evidence.

It reflects our view, backed by scientific prediction and an increasingly alarming body of evidence that has been manifestly ignored by mainstream agricultural industries, that common broad acre agricultural systems are unsustainable and are now in serious trouble. While not downplaying climate change or drought, we feel that it is a chronic weakness in farm enterprises brought on by exploitative and unsustainable farming practices that is the principal cause of enterprise failure; with drought and climate change currently being the straw that breaks the camel's back.

The evidence we bring to this enquiry and the consequent response of the enquiry is critical for the future of broad acre agriculture in Australia. Unless these manifest problems of soil degradation and unsustainable farming practices are addressed, then many, many broad acre farm enterprises will fail; regardless of climate change. The capacity for building self-reliance among farm businesses and industry as a means to survive climate change pre-supposes that basic problems with farming systems themselves will not lead to collapse. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

However, a restoration of basic system and enterprise health is perfectly feasible as we outline, and once this is restored, survival through climate change, at least in the foreseeable future, should be no more onerous a task than was faced by previous generations over many years through ordinary climate variability. Indeed, with modern technologies, it may even be easier. While there are also very significant barriers to these advances; nevertheless, they too are surmountable.

Should you wish any further input, I would welcome the opportunity, and am available as per the above contacts. In the meantime, we wish you well in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lake,  
Managing Director,