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1 - 8 - 2003

(COUNCILOR: MOREE PLAINS COUNCIL)

Submission to the Productivity Commission with regard to the impacts of native vegetation and biodiversity regulations.

Dear Commissioners

In presenting this submission I would like to introduce myself as an ordinary farmer residing at "Backspear" Moree, mainly involved in cultivation with some grazing country.

In addition to our farming operation I am a councillor with Moree Plains Shire Council, and over a period of time I have become aware of the implications of the Native Vegetation Regulations, regarding the productivity of rural properties.

There are two problems that come to mind, firstly the significant spread of the weed Lippia. With some millions of H.A. under threat of the spread of this weed, native vegetation and clearing laws will render many properties unviable as this weed takes control of pasture land. The only way at this point in time to at least suppress this problem is either by cultivation or chemical spraying.

In many cases without some form of clearing neither of these processes will be able to be performed. I do not have a monetary value on this inevitable event, however lippia itself significantly reduces the carrying capacity of properties and the cost of suppression or eradication will become a prohibitive operation.

In addition to Lippia, Serrated Tussock appears to be another threatening weed which will also have similar implications to rural producers.

My understanding is that both the Southern Highlands which involves the Monaro area and also the Northern Tablelands around the Armidale area, are subject to this weed. Once again cultivation and spraying appear to be the only way to make some sort of headway with this extremely problem weed.

The flow on effect of these weeds is the significant loss of production, high costs in controlling this problem, with local communities suffering because of reduction in employment and reduced spending power of the entire communities

I remain
Yours Truthfully

Allan V. Boardman