

## SUBMISSION

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A) The many rules and regulations that the Government have implemented over the years have all been to the detriment of the farmers.

-By whose definition of ecologically sustainability are you referring too?

-The Native Vegetation Act, The Endangered Species Act etc. have almost made living on the land unviable, by taking away our basic right to farm in the most sustainable way.

-There seems to be a conflict between Government agencies, Living Centers is promoting Prime Ag land, where you may farm away to your hearts content, with no restrictions placed on agricultural pursuits, while, on the other hand the Native Vegetation Plans have so many restrictions in place that it will be impossible to farm in a viable way.

Then you have the DLWC saying that all clearing applications must go through them, but they are also a regulative board and so have the power to fine you if they see something on your place they don't like.

-Each agency has a different interpretation of a rule depending on which side of the fence they are on.

-By eroding our property and water rights, they are devaluing our property as well.

-If the vegetation plans are implemented then this will mean that a lot of the land cannot be used and this will lead to unsustainable land and water use (which I am sure will be blamed on the farmers as usual)

B) Acknowledge that we have Property and Water Rights.

-Give tax breaks and incentives.

-There will be no bad consequences if the disincentives to farm are removed.

-If the Government shows that they value farmers as being the ones who feed Australia, instead of degrading and accusing us of all types of environmental vandalism, we could get on with the job in a ecologically sustainable way, without interference.

C) Treat salinity on a need to basis only.

- Let us store more run off water and we will not run into the same problem we did in the last drought.

D) Subsidize dams and bores to encourage storage of water.

There appears to be little public consultation with any native vegetation or water issues, we are usually informed after a decision is made.

We are being told ALL the time that they were advertised, but it appears that there is obviously a breakdown somewhere. This needs to be rectified.

Yours truly,

*A. E. O'Neill*  
164 Collins Valley Rd.  
Via Kyogee 2474.  
N.S.W.