

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Administration Committee](#)
Subject: Steering committee review in the rights of landowners
Date: Thursday, 18 July 2019 11:44:44 AM

Hello Kristina,

I am not sure that my issue is comfortably sitting within the remit of the committee but feel it warrants a thought.

I own a farming business on the Blackwood River between Balingup and Nannup in the South West. This is an attractive environment with an increasing tourism industry and greater use by recreational fishing, all terrain bicycles, etc. We are also surrounded by state forest and pine plantations. The farm was operating well before pines were planted.

We purchased the farm in 1989 fully aware of the hazards of bushfires and our role in managing our country to mitigate these hazards to our neighbours, 2 being private landowners and the others being government plantation and state forest. At that time, we were aware that there was a good neighbour policy in place with government agencies that ensured us of support in the event of fires. Mostly these were small issues.

In the past 10 years the farm and business has been devastated by three serious fires that have started in government land and along the river line, all fuelled by an increasing weed issue and a poorly managed pine harvesting industry. This situation has now changed further with an Act passed in 2016 which has the government deny all supports and liability for fire that emanates from government land and plantations. My grievance lies with a government that no longer considers its people and their livelihoods in preference to profit taking with the least amount of care given to its assets. This has made our livelihood unsustainable with an increase in insurances and uncertainty of viability and has also placed the welfare my livestock at great risk along with the mental health of my family.

Typically, farmers keep directing earnings into developing their farm. We are the same. We do not reap any profit from this until we sell the farm. We do not function in the same vein as government agencies managing the timber industry or the surrounding environment. I personally feel penalised for owning land in this locality. That the fire risk will always feature in negotiations for selling this property, is blatantly obvious.

Does this fit within your investigations? I am happy to discuss this further if required.

regards

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