

NSW  
Farmers  
Association

**Please describe how native vegetation and biodiversity/threatened species laws have impacted on your:**

*Farming practices (your day to day operations)*

In this year of extreme drought the sheep running on uncleared bush had huge losses, as they were difficult to access to handfeed. The sheep running on open cleared country, who came to the feed every day we saved.

*Productivity (ability to develop existing or new land)*

I am unable to redevelop land which was previously cleared many years ago, and has been allowed to regrow under previous management.

*Sustainability (the ability to improve your land and the environment)*

It is difficult to maintain much less improve the environment, when weeds, rabbits and feral pigs are harboured in bush, which is in no way unique with no real conservation value.

*Property vales and returns*

Improved country is worth \$500 per acre, uncleared scrubland is worth \$80 per acre as a retreat only. Improved country running 3 DSE per acre returns \$150 to \$200 per acre per year gross. Uncleared at 1 DSE per 10 acres returns \$5 per acre per year.

*Investment patters (either on- or off-farm)*

Investment on property has almost stopped. Much old country ring-barked (cleared) 50 to 70 years ago needs re-clearing. I am too old and busy to get entangled in the bureaucratic bullshit necessary to get a clearing licence under today's communist regime.

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