

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 drought, particularly last winter we have been totally overrun with kangaroos, in 2002 alone we were issued with tags to shoot 400 roos. However, this barely made a mark on kangaroos eating crops in competition with livestock. We have been on our property for 5 generations and we have never seen a problem like this before. I am 51 years old and barely saw a roo when I was a child in places now overrun with them.

Productivity (ability to develop existing or new land)

The red tape involved with DLWC in trying to get around to fix an extremely severe erosion problem on my property has been unbelievable. It looks as if I will have to go ahead and try to resolve the problem myself if anything is to be done.

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

All farmers worth their salt are environmentalists at heart as we wish to be sustainable for our children's sake, however we are treated like children as if we know nothing and are environmental vandals of some sort. I find it a battle to control weeds on my property that come from lifestyle blocks that surround me, however I am being told I cannot clear Sifton Bush, etc.

Property values and returns

I am finding it very hard to remain viable in an area surrounded by rural subdivision and people that know nothing of rural life and our children are virtually ridiculed for being on a farm with our income, when we are surrounded by people who do not want to work but appear to have plenty of money for alternate lifestyle.

Investment patterns (either on- or off-farm)

I believe the family farm is the backbone of nation. However, I see it as being severely threatened. If these laws & rules keep up, I might as well sell up and subdivide my property, as farmers have not got the time or money to fight this bureaucratic nonsense.

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