

Introduction

To ensure NSW Farmers remains democratic and represents the view of its members, the positions put forward on any issue must be based on the policies agreed through formal processes such as Executive Council and the NSW Farmers Annual Conference. Members should familiarise themselves with the current policies on native vegetation and put forward any changes to their District Council or Branch Chair.

Current policies

AC11 That the Association lobby for changes to Native Vegetation Act/Regulations, to require the collaborative development of “triple bottom line” landscape plans with landholders, which would replace property vegetation plans as the primary mechanism for native vegetation management on rural lands. These plans would optimise social, economic and environmental outcomes.

AC11 That the Inverell District Council urge the NSW Farmers' Association take immediate action to establish a dialogue with the new Primary Industry Minister with regard to changes to the Native Vegetation regulations and the NRM, stewardship matters and property rights.

AC11 That the Association seeks amendments to planning legislation to ensure that:

- Environment zones imposed on land used for agricultural production are removed from Local Environmental Plans;
- Existing Use Rights removed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Existing Uses) Regulation 2006 are restored;
- Positive rights and protections for ongoing farming activities are introduced such that new neighbours cannot object to routine and necessary farming activities.

AC10: That the Association lobby State and Federal Governments for the introduction of ongoing stewardship policies and payments that will benefit all landholders.

AC 05 That the Association

- (a) draw attention to the double standard for the clearing of urban land to extend metropolitan areas;
- (b) support the concept of self-assessment for continuing use clearing; and
- (c) lobby the State Government to seek that exemptions or simple self assessment provisions are available to facilitate management of invasive species under the Native Vegetation Act 2003

AC 06 That the Association continue to lobby the Government to:

- (a) prevent local government overriding the native vegetation legislation;
- (b) resolve the resulting jurisdictional conflict and red tape; and
- (c) oppose the Department of Lands placing covenants on vegetation when leased land is converted to freehold.

AC 98 That the Association seek that where clearing is prohibited as a result of native vegetation legislation and threatened species legislation, the State Government either purchase the land at current commercial value if the landholder chooses to sell or provide compensation:

- (a) for loss of production;
- (b) for loss of land value;
- (c) by annual payments where land use is constrained; and
- (d) with a specified time limit for payment

01 May GC That the Association seeks that the National Parks and Wildlife Service comply with the social and economic principles of the native Vegetation Conservation Act when replying to Regional Vegetation Committee aims

07 Mar EC That the Association call for the NSW Government to comply with the timeline for the Walgett landscape planning process such that: (a) the Namoi Catchment Management Authority completes the clause 28 policy required for approval of the plan by 1 June 2007; (b) Government provides its response to this policy by 30 June 2007; and (c) an announcement regarding approval of the plan is made by 1 July 2007.

07 Mar EC That the Association lobby the National Farmers' Federation to call on the Federal Government to: (a) use funding criteria under the Inter Governmental Agreement process to drive reforms to State environmental legislation that enable farmers to deliver environmental objectives in a more flexible and cost effective way; and conduct a review of state legislation to identify aspects that limit or that prevent regional communities efficiently delivering environmental outcomes.

05 Oct EC That the Association oppose any linkages between Catchment Action Plans and Local Environment Plans that compulsorily impose Catchment Action Plans on local government.

AC 01 That the Association seek that the Native Vegetation Conservation Act be amended to allow for the proper economic and timely control of invasive weed species.

AC 00 That the Association seek that in relation to development applications lodged by farmers to comply with environmental legislation, decisions by the NSW Government be taken as approved if no answer is forthcoming within 60 days.

AC 08 That the Association urgently make it plain to the Government that amendment of the Native Vegetation legislation to require registration of Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) on title would be a breach of faith and is contrary to the position negotiated in 2005, which is that, on transfer of land, PVPs are to be notified via Section 149 certificates.