

## **Colin Nicholl Hyden**

I fully endorse the comments by Mr Murray Nixon as printed in the Farm Weekly January 16th 2020.

I intend to attach this article to this submission in a separate article.

Good laws need to be clear and set out what a landowner can or cannot do on their properties. When restrictions are applied by the government as to what we can do on our land fair and proper compensation must be paid.

The EPA and the Department of water and regulations need to work with landowners and encourage good relationship between landowners and themselves and not viewed as enforcers of the law or as the enemy. The Good Neighbour policy between farmers and what was then CALM is a good example of what can be achieved.

With regard to the ESAs in section 51b landowners and land managers that have these restrictions placed on their land should be notified as to where they are rather than being left in the dark.

Section 51r relating to data sources being enhanced i am concerned that such enhancements could lead to tampering during the process particularly if it is being used in a legal case to prosecute.

All landowners and land managers including Government take on responsibility in the role as owners and managers of that land.. It is important that the amendments to the act encourage this to be done to a high standard. Weeds and vermin need to be controlled or eradicated and wildfire protection is maintained.

These activities must not be inhibited by the Act, particularly in relation to wild Fire protection.

Western Australian farmers are renowned for being among world agricultural leaders in adopting new farm practices and advanced technology. It is important that this Act does not inhibit farmers in introducing and adopting such advances and changes in land use practices.

With regard to wildfire control it is important that effective fire breaks are continued particularly around government reserves and that fuel reduction burns are carried out in appropriate places. When fires start on these reserves an unfair burden falls on adjoining land owners and local business people to fight these fires

As volunteers. It must be remembered that these volunteers have their own businesses to run and manage.

My belief is that those who advocate for the government to create these reserves do little to offer themselves to be trained as volunteer fire fighters..

The Bill needs to encourage landowners, wherever appropriate to plant more trees and saltbush on their land. This must include saline land under government control. There are several companies that could be contracted to do this on behalf of the government.

The review and redrafting of the Environmental Act will give the Department and the Parliament to solve many of the problems and injustices that occurred under the current Act.

Private property rights must be strengthened and compensation made payable when property could be taken for public purposes as set out by the Australian Law Reform Commission.

I thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.