

Thank you for the opportunity of providing a submission into the independent review of interaction between the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (hereafter, EPBC Act) and the agriculture sector.

My own position is one of a small land owner who intends to soon retire from professional life onto his small property and one who seeks independent self-sufficiency on the land in his retirement. Although I am not a large stakeholder in the context of agriculture as a national primary industry, I believe I meet the definition of "farmer" as stated in the briefing paper and have some small part to play in the process of land care, land rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources. At the very least, I am not immune to the impact of the EPBC Act.

I have read the briefing paper that has been prepared to inform stakeholders of the purpose, scope and timing of the review. My principal purpose in lodging this submission is to register my interest in ensuring that the small land owner is not ignored as the review proceeds. My interests are largely personal – those of an independent small farmer who understands the issues of environmental protection and seeks to further them but one who is keen to ensure his rights as a property owner are not unnecessarily infringed upon by thoughtless, ill-informed and narrow minded bureaucratic regulation aimed at the broader national agricultural sector.

My request to the reviewer is very simple. Please do not allow the review of the impact of the EPBC Act to be inappropriately focussed at the larger interests of leaders in the agricultural sector to the potential detriment of small land owners who, although not being key industry stakeholders in the Australian economy, have specific needs and requirements nevertheless. I believe I have a significant and legitimate place in this country's agricultural sector and I would not like to think that my place and that of my neighbours and small farming colleagues would be dismissed in this review as irrelevant or inconsequential. Our efforts, concerns, dreams and endeavours are no less than any of those in the broader national environment and must be taken into account if this review is to have any claim of universal stakeholder representation.

Therefore, please do not fail to consult in a relevant, targeted and respectful way with small independent landowners, their families and their representatives. To ignore the important part they play in the conservation of the rural environment and maintenance of the national heritage risks jeopardising the legitimacy of any meaningful reform stemming from this important review.

I sincerely hope you take these issues into consideration as the review progresses and I would be very pleased to see the content of my concerns referenced in the final outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Warfe.