



Pastoralists' Association

of West Darling Inc.

Registered under NSW Government Fair Trading

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Submission to the remake of the Border Fence Maintenance Regulation 2009

The Pastoralists' Association of West Darling (PAWD) represents the interests of livestock managers in the far west of NSW. The potential impact of uncontrolled wild dogs on livestock enterprises is a perennial concern for PAWD members, and the maintenance of the Dog Fence as an effective barrier to incursions of wild dogs from QLD and SA is critical to the ongoing success of livestock husbandry in NSW. Accordingly, PAWD offers the following response to the Border Fence Maintenance Regulation 2018—regulatory impact statement.

PAWD notes the three options considered by the regulatory impact statement, being:

- Option 1: allow the 2009 Regulation to lapse
- Option 2: remake the 2009 Regulation without amendment
- Option 3: remake the 2009 Regulation with amendment

PAWD recommends that Option 2: remake the 2009 Regulation without amendment is adopted. The alternative options are unacceptable alternatives.

Option 1 allows for the levy to revert to \$0.01 per hectare per annum. Under this scenario, insufficient funds would be available for ongoing maintenance and repair of the Dog Fence, and it would quickly deteriorate and become ineffective at preventing wild dog incursions into NSW.

In consideration of the remaining options, it is clear that adoption of Option 2 would be the most satisfactory outcome of this review process. Severe drought conditions are currently affecting livestock producers in western NSW, and imposing additional costs on family businesses at this difficult time would not be well received by ratepayers. Furthermore, there currently exists a provision to generate additional revenue by increasing the present levy of 5.1 cents per hectare to a maximum of 5.5 cents per hectare under the 2009 Regulation, and remaking the 2009 Regulation without amendment preserves the Board's capacity to adopt a rate increase of up to 5.5 cents per hectare. The regulatory impact statement indicates that the current maximum levy should provide sufficient funds for fence maintenance and repair in the immediate future.

PAWD understands that the Border Fence Maintenance Regulations are reviewed on a regular basis; accordingly there would be an opportunity to revisit this process in due course if the outcome of this review proves to be unsatisfactory.

This review process also raises concerns as to whether the increased area of National Parks in western NSW is reflected in State Government contributions to the Dog Fence budget, and PAWD seeks clarification on this point from the Border Fence Management Board.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the regulatory impact statement.

Lachlan Gall
President.

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