

Australia's fauna extinction crisis SURVEY – TO THE COMMITTEE SENATE

Proposed Development of Northern Australia

Farmers Network are saying: There is a Senate Enquiry into "Australia's Fauna Extinction Crisis". The loss of extensive areas of native vegetation is the main cause of wildlife decline across the world. The savannas of Northern Australia are internationally significant and ecotourism in these areas is a growing and sustainable use. Agricultural expansion in Northern Australia is inappropriate if the natural values of the north are to be protected.

Potentially, an area almost the size of Victoria, (including the damming of our wild rivers) will be cleared to make way for AGRICULTURE EXPANSION for Cotton, Rice, Sugar Cane and array of cash crops. These crops demand a high uptake of nitrogen, and water usage).

Refer: Website: www.csiro.au/en/NAWRA :The Federal Government employed more than 100 scientists at a cost of \$15million, to investigate three priority river catchment areas across three states in 2.5 years, to enable expansion of irrigated agriculture. **an area almost the size of Victoria** These include:

- the Fitzroy catchment in Western Australia
- the Finniss, Adelaide, Mary and Wildman river catchments in the Northern Territory
- the Mitchell catchment in Queensland. This information is taken from the Federal Government Website

www.csiro.au/en/NAWRA

Western Australia

The Assessment investigated the Fitzroy River catchment in Western Australia, a river 700 km long and a catchment 94,000 km². The largest of the three study areas included in the Assessment.

The Fitzroy catchment

With major aquifer systems in the Fitzroy catchment, groundwater is likely to provide the initial development pathway to enable expansion of irrigated agriculture.

NAWRA reports



Northern Territory

The Assessment investigated the Finniss, Adelaide, Mary and Wildman catchments in the Northern Territory, a combined area of 30,000 km² with rivers flowing through extensive coastal and marine flood plains.



The Finniss, Adelaide, Mary and Wildman

In the Finniss, Adelaide, Mary and Wildman catchments, the Assessment found a combination of major dams, farm-scale offstream storages and groundwater could support expansion of agriculture.



Queensland

The Mitchell River catchment in Queensland covers 72,000 km² and flows into the Gulf of Carpentaria.



The Mitchell River

In the Mitchell River catchment, the Assessment found large instream dams could provide the best development opportunity in the catchment.



www.farmersnetwork.org.au is conducting a survey is designed to assess your knowledge and opinions regarding the current and future environmental health of Northern Australia and how the "Agriculture Expansion" proposal may affect the current Extinction Crisis of Australia's Wildlife.

HAVE YOUR SAY by completing the SURVEY
<http://www.farmersnetwork.org.au>