

Farmers Network – are claiming that it would be far better to support existing farmers to increase their production and bio-diversity, rather than spending \$billions of tax-payers money to provide infrastructure to CLEAR native vegetation to support Large scale Industrial Agricultural for Northern Australia.

The message here is that farmers have already taken up the best land since settlement, which has already been cleared, and that Australia already has food bowls which could be improved upon and supported instead.

After attending some informative farming seminars, a subject of concern for us was/is about retaining farming bio-diversity for the health of future farming and water protection.

CEO – Phil Emms, from Farmers Network states that he has seen many changes since the selling out of commercial dairy farming. Phil and his family own and operate improved farm properties in the Atherton Tablelands. His background as a dairy farmer from Warrnambool (Western District, Victoria) allowed him to experience the importance of basic soil health (nutrients) maintenance conjoined with selective animal husbandry techniques using the best AI bulls available, importantly managing grassland for optimal soil health.

On properties serviced by perennial streams, we have fenced off the Riparian Zones and planted out native vegetation. This has a 3-fold effect:

1. Cattle can't access the water directly and pollute and damage the banks
2. Increased the water quality including (downstream farmers)
3. Allowed the native wildlife to once again thrive unhindered. The riparian zone on virtually all farms is the life blood (water source) and the actual highway for thousands of our most precious endangered wildlife unique to Australia.

Farm bio-diversity is important to our farming industry as we have bee-hive farmers on our farms, who appreciate their bees pollinating from a diverse range of trees that have not been genetically modified, nor laced with industrial chemicals. The Australian Bee industry contributes \$4.6 - \$6 billion annually to Australia's economy. There have been farmers who have lost their organic status due to the neighbour's genetically modified wheat that allegedly contaminated the organic crops. The organic wheat farmer lost the Court case.



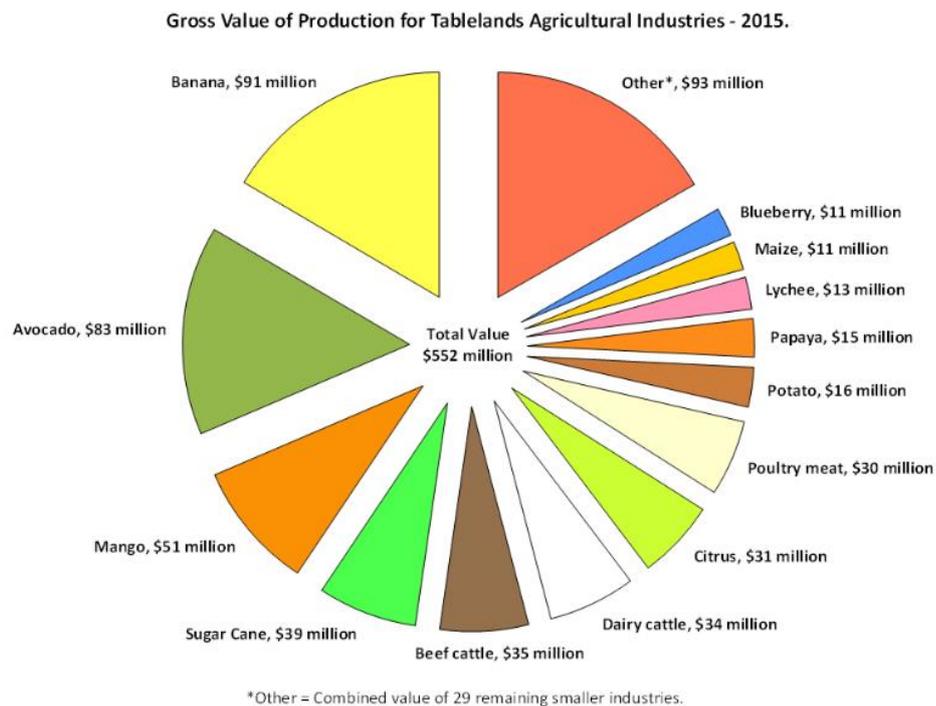
FACT: AUSTRALIA ALREADY HAS FOOD BOWLS WHICH NEEDS SUPPORT rather than clearing more land which is now contributing to Australia's Fauna Extinction Crisis.

Farmers Network are independent farmers who do not accept donations, and we are not represented by the large Corporations & Chemical companies. We appreciate family farmers of all different sizes that contribute to our diverse industries which contributes to our economy. Best farming future is also about caring for our Country to work with Nature and not against it.

The Tablelands Food Bowl - This is taken from The Qld Dept of Agriculture web-site 2015

Industry diversity

Tablelands agriculture includes a wide diversity of tropical and subtropical production of plant and animal industries. Forty-two large agricultural industries were identified in the Tablelands region in 2015. The success and resilience of the Tablelands agriculture sector can be attributed to this industry diversity, which provides options to farmers to change crops and farming systems to adapt to market cycles and consumer demands.



Farmers Network are saying

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE NEED RIPARIAN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS – The Great Barrier Reef is in trouble. Farmers play a role in being part of the SOLUTION.

Due to the alarming large-scale clearing of land, it is proof that self-regulation has not worked. (The reasons the building industry standards are so high in Australia is because of the regulation laws protecting the public from any likely unscrupulous behaviour. Self-regulation tends to destroy objectivity).

To help save our wildlife from becoming extinct, it is now important that riparian zones are established on all water courses. A **wildlife corridor** is a link of **wildlife** habitat, generally native vegetation, which joins two or more larger areas of similar **wildlife** habitat. **Corridors** are critical for the maintenance of ecological processes including allowing for the movement of wildlife and the continuation of viable populations.

HAVE YOUR SAY - <http://www.farmersnetwork.org.au/development-of-northern-australia/food-bowl-of-northern-queensland-threats>