

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.

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.

TICK YES or NO to the following questions:

	YES	NO
Are you concerned about Australia’s Fauna Extinction Crisis?		
Are you aware of the Federal ‘Development of Northern Australia proposal’?		
Do you think the government has adequately consulted the Australian people?		
Would you like to see existing Australian farmers better supported by Governments rather than clear more land for large scale agriculture expansion?		
Do you believe existing agricultural areas (such as the Mareeba/Dimbulah Region, the Atherton Tablelands, the coastal lowlands of the east coast of Qld and the Lockyer valley), could be improved and diversified to increase food production in Qld as an alternative to risking broad scale land clearing of native habitat?		
Do you believe large-scale agricultural development and expansion, threatens the overall economic and ecological integrity of Northern Australia including water resources, soil health, water quality and biodiversity?		
Do you believe the government is doing enough to assist existing farmers adapt to climate change such as offering subsidies for improving soil health, farm biodiversity & riparian areas for wildlife Corridors?		
Do you believe the Government has a duty of care with ongoing legislation and enforcement of National Environmental laws designed to protect Australia’s interest in the vast bio-diversity of undeveloped wilderness, marginal scrublands & savannahs, with its diverse fauna ecology?		

