

Submitted on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 - 05:01

DETAILS

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Sector: Agriculture

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

1 . Would a strategic approach to clearing, through a strategic purpose permit, benefit you?

Response: unsure
Comments:

2. Is the 'purpose component' reasonable to apply considering the added complexity of assessing this type of clearing permit?

Response: unsure
Comments:
3. Is the proposed fee structure fair and does it adequately reflect differences in the financial capacity of clearing permit applicants?

Response: unsure
Comments:
4. What is the likely impact on your business or industry of the proposed clearing fee structure?

Comments:
Not interested
5. Additional comments regarding Native Vegetation Clearing not addressed in the questions above.

Comments:

WATER

6. Do you consider it reasonable for taxpayers to pay 100 per cent of the cost of assessing water licence and permit applications and if so, why?

Response: yes

Comments:

Guaranteed right to take water in the Australian Constitution *7. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, what do you consider to be an appropriate fee for a water licence or permit application?*

Comments:

None

8. Would you consider a risk-based model for determining water licence and permit application fees to be appropriate? If not, what basis could the department use to structure fees?

Response: no

Comments:

9. What would be the likely impact on your business or industry if water licence and permit fees were introduced?

Comments:

Very large impost on an already heavily government imposed industry *10.

If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, how could the collection of fees be timed to better support your business or industry?

For example, would you benefit from paying fees up front, at the end of a licence assessment or annualised over the term of the licence?*

Response: unsure

Comments

No charges should be made

11 . Additional comments regarding Water licences and permits not addressed in the questions above.

Comments:

1. The Western Australian Government have received huge windfalls of money not only from the sale of Canning Vale markets but also from the sale of land from the previous Perth markets at West Perth all thanks to the farmers who used and paid for through commissions.

2. 35 years ago, at the Perth Markets, the agent commission was around 7%.

Now it is anywhere between 15 and 18% due to high imposts imposed by laws created by government and excessive rent. This translates between 1/6th and 1/5th lost from our income - this of course has nothing to do at all with our production costs. This has resulted in farmers who have had to travel the dangerous path of negotiating directly with the buyers... predominately major supermarkets. The supermarkets then use their market dominance to strong arm farmers into a continual lowering of profit margins.

3. The continued use of illegal labour has decimated the industry with both the Federal and State Governments unwilling to provide the adequate resources to capture and prosecute the offenders as witnessed by a certain group of farmers in Carabooda. One way that the use of an illegal workforce uses as a loophole is to say that they are family members. Can you please explain to me how a planeload of 400 family members gets replaced three months later by another plane load of 400 family members and then another three months later another 400 family members replaces the second group? The use of cheap illegal labour enables the rogue farmers to flood the markets with produce and still able to make a profit whilst the genuine grower who is engaging legal labour cannot afford to pay his workforce and make a profit. These illegal workers are found to be living in very degrading substandard conditions. One wonders if these farmers are prepared to subject their fellow human beings to this degrading behaviour then what illegal spraying would they also be prepared to commit.

4. The continual imposts that both the federal and state governments are applying to growers are absolutely wrecking our industry. It is not making our industry better but decimating it. One example, now for produce to be declared first grade, it has to be at least credited with Freshcare Specs. However, a buyer at the market can purchase second grade produce he can sell it as the name of that produce is as long the buyer doesn't state that it is first grade. This can be very misleading to the consumer as they are unaware of this loophole.

5. With the licence fees proposed it purports to be to recover costs for overseeing the cost of these licences that is, a user pays fee structure. According to the RACWA, about 30% of all revenues from the sale and use of motor vehicles are returned for the use of motor vehicle infrastructure whilst the remaining 70% is swallowed up in consolidated revenue. As there is a push for a user pays strategy, is there going to be a marked decrease in the cost of licence, stamp duty and other associated taxes surrounding the motor vehicle industry? If not, why should we be anything extra in a user pays strategy? In the past couple of years, a new quarantine charge has been introduced to cover the cost of importing seed from other States. Please note that this seed also had been processed through the Commonwealth Governments Quarantine Department. I received a charge from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for \$46.50 for five minutes work. This equates to a charge of \$558.00 per hour. This is an obscene rate of money to be charging. An emergency services levy was introduced to be able to protect all the citizens of WA. The monies that

this levy produced provided another empire building department centralised in Perth with very little money given to the frontline firefighters. The volunteer firefighters ended up having nothing but contempt for them and there was a bitter divide between different government departments. The solution? Hit us all up with an increase in the levy.

6. Generally, farmers have to use quite a few different modes of transportation and have associated licencing costs. For example, I own a business car, business ute, business truck, business tractor, two business trailers as well as our personal car which all require annual licences. These licence fees total to amount of \$1856.75. This total does not include insurance, GST on insurance, insurance duty or the recording fee. If these extra fees were added, then the total annual cost would be \$3675.00 for our vehicles. Not bad as at the moment there are only two of us that utilise these vehicles at any given time.

7. The main reason that the WA State Government has a large debt, apart from over spending on grandiose projects, is the unfair and discriminatory GST revenue that WA receives. Section 99 of the Australian Constitution states that the Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade, commerce, or revenue, give preference to one State or any part thereof over another State or any part thereof. There are two points where the GST fails Section 99. First point is that we are not sharing equal distribution, percentage wise, as to all the other states. Second point is that all our revenues are calculated in the GST carve up whereas revenues received from gambling, for example pokies, from other States are not considered in the GST calculation carve up. Clearly the GST is discriminatory and is unconstitutional.

8. Section 100 of the constitution states that The Commonwealth shall not, by any law or regulation of trade and commerce abridge the right of a State or of the residents therein to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation. Section 109 states When a law of a State is inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth, the latter shall prevail, and the former shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be invalid. Clearly Section 100 state that I, as a resident, am allowed to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for irrigation. Rivers can mean below ground and above ground. Clearly with the State trying to place on a huge impost on my taking of water contravenes section 109 where the Commonwealth's view is inconsistent with the State.

9. Under article 61 of the Magna Carta 1215 (the founding document of our Constitution) we have a right to enter into lawful rebellion if we feel we are being governed unjustly. Contrary to common belief our Sovereign and her Government are only there to govern us and not to

rule us and this must be done within the constraint of our Common Law and the freedoms asserted to us by such law, nothing can become law if it falls outside of this simple constraint.

10. If the Western Australian Government is so strapped for cash that I can

strongly suggest a GST Equalisation Levy be placed on major companies doing business in our State

which would include but not limited to miners, gas companies. This would make the Federal

Government sit up and listen as then they would lose a huge amount of money as these major

companies would claim the levy as a tax deduction. Alternatively, cease all mining and gas royalties so

that they would not be taken into account with GST payments.

Soon the other States will realise how that will impact on their GST receipts.

11. I believe the idea of a charge for a water licence should be completely

abandoned and will protest vigorously if the charge is initiated.