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DETAILS

Company: [REDACTED]
First name: Darryl
Last name: Smith
Address: [REDACTED]
Suburb: [REDACTED]
State: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
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: no
Comments:

The actual owner of the land is not the beneficiary of land not being cleared. It is the environment that is the winner in sustainable vegetation clearing and so the environment should be held responsible if the Government wishes to implement cost recovery The last land clearing i did was to facilitate gravel extraction 2 years ago. The bushland cleared was degenerated and weed infested. Once the gravel was extracted the area cleared was fenced and replanted with native species and in the future will be a higher quality bushland . I have done the environment a favour , society a favour with a new source of high quality gravel for infrastructure and under the proposed model will need to pay for it *4. What is the likely impact on your business or industry of the proposed clearing fee structure?*

Comments:

If we do wish to clear land for some purpose in the future the additional cost may make the project unsustainable *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:

Again the winner of the water licencing is the environment. Where i operate the water is fully allocated and has been for many years. Water has been set aside for the Dunsborough townsite and over many years the beneficiary of the licensing system has been the environment. Water used for agriculture also benefits society through high quality food, jobs and export income for the country. Many of the water sources licensed were developed by landowners at their own cost and often before licensing was initiated. Data from these developments was supplied to the Department to help increase d knowledge. Is it fair to charge landowners retrospectively for infrastructure installed at their cost Many other Government services are paid for by taxpayers which are not used by myself such as Metro public transport, the new stadium (built it seems for eagle and docker members) and even the Department using funds to sponsor events *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:

The current costs

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:

Leave as is current

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

Comments:

I have 5 licenses on 4 farms in a 4 km radius. The cost to me would be in excess of \$3000 per year.

I already have to supply , read and maintain several meters for the department and have just received notification that I need to have a meter for every water point including those not in use (in excess of 10) when I only have seven pumps I farm in an industry that has just been deregulated which was not at the industries choice and is under severe financial pressure. At 56 years of age and employing a staff of 8 this might be the straw that breaks my back and forces closure of the business (last financial year all staff financial reimbursement was higher than mine which is unsustainable. Agriculture does not have the ability to pass on cost increases *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

not at all

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

Comments:

Water is licensed to protect its sustainability and the environment. I have the physical ability to pump more water and irrigate more land from water accessible on my property. The Department wants me to pay for not doing so