

Please accept my late submission as I have only just now found the invitation to submit on line.

I have been property in moss vale and have been indirectly afford by the fires.

One issue in particular I would like to raise to your attention is the difficulty and the cost of leasing crown land. I applied over a year ago to lease some scrubby overgrown crown land out the back of Berrima with the hope because no one wanted it I may be able to lease it for a nominal amount. I could have run a couple of horses or cattle on the land and volunteer to undertake regeneration on the 10acres, clearly debris, invasive weeds and planting red gums and similar species. With the current policy of leasing crown lands for market value, I was looking at spending \$3400 per year, which is more expensive than some local horse Agistment Five star spelling establishments. How sad that this was unable to be negotiated due to the current policy able to not be able to give an exemption to the market value rule. In most areas west of the range the market rule would not bother me so, but this price was ridiculous. Wouldn't you know it, the land or land close to did catch fire!

My point is that crown lands policies being tightened have resulted in the land being unaffordable to lease. The rates applicable are also expensive. The local council who is expected to manage this land have no interest in doing so.

Like so many others, I feel locked out of opportunities that would mutually benefit. I am not a company, I am a sole parent who cannot afford rural land and so I sought to lease it to no avail. The pension rebate does not apply to this land.

This is pretty much the same scenario I face with local council all the time. Their excuse is costs of insurance that lock me and others out. Can't ride on council land, can't lease land previously used for agriculture as its now marked for industry. Meanwhile old paddocks become overgrown and overrun with weeds and too much ground wood. Fences become decrepit and barbed wire falls down for a dangerous trip for any unsuspecting visitors or wildlife. The way council and crown lands lock is out is rediculous. With access, the land would not be so overgrown.

Kat Luck

Sent from my iPhone