

**From:** Keith Mader  
**To:** [Public Administration Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into the pastoral industry-submission of Keith Mader-1  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 September 2013 7:27:58 PM

---

My name is Keith Mader of Walling Rock station, Menzies. I was not going to contribute to this inquiry as I am currently involved with a parliamentary inquiry into the corruption of the sandalwood industry. Being involved in the pastoralist industry all my adult life and owning a pastoral lease for the last 21 years which has cost me a considerable amount of time and money. Selling my house and blocks of land in town, I feel I should have my say. Where do I begin? The environment

I have had FPC on my station doing sandalwood since 2009. They have indiscriminately cleared land, pulled undersize sandalwood trees. In the contractors agreement they have to plant 12 seeds for every tree they pull. We have evidence of them not planting the seeds, also leaking sump oil and diesel on the ground since 2009. I have made complaints several times over the years, the last time being June 2013, by phone and email to John Slorach of FPC. He stated it wasn't an issue because they are government. I said it was an environmental issue. Knowing John Slorach and FPC it will still be happening today. FPC has done more damage to the rangeland on Walling Rock than my grazing stock. FPC absolutely refuses to rehabilitate because they are a government department and it will rehabilitate itself naturally.

What I wanted FPC to do is reseed Walling Rock with sandalwood seeds because they pulled all the undersized trees and with not seeding there is no sandalwood germination. Talking about natural rehabilitation I agree with it on some points of view.

You don't hear about people overstocking stations today, there may be some isolated incidences. If you reduce stock numbers the regeneration will come back. Over the years there has been droughts and very wet years and nature controls the environment not people. For instance I can remember the late 80's early 90's when there was a drought and the goldfield stations had sheep, goats and millions of kangaroos and people were saying it would take 50 years for the land to come back to its original state. In 1992 it was a wet year and these people could not believe how the land regenerated in one year. It's all to do with rainfall, droughts and bushfires which pastoralists have no control over.

In the 21 years since I've been here I have had 6 bushfires due to the country being in pristine condition and have had thousands of acres burnt. I can remember in 2000 after 8 good years there were bushfires all over the goldfields, nullarbor and interior that burnt out more country than the size of the state of Victoria. Being that it was out here in the middle of nowhere no attempt was made to extinguish them. There has been a lot of roads put in for mining or exploration that have been rehabilitated. I feel they should not be rehabilitated. One reason being they could be used as firebreaks. This country will inevitably burn just a matter of when. Another reason is the roads could be used to control vermin. Some of these laws that have been passed makes you wonder who initiated them. Therefore the natural vegetation looks after itself through floods, droughts and fires which humans have no control over. The single biggest environmental issue in the rangelands is wild dogs. These dogs (dingos) were introduced into Australia two and a half thousand years ago by Indonesian fishermen. It has killed off the Tasmanian tiger and Tasmanian devil from the mainland of Australia. Before European settlers came to Australia the aboriginals were living out in the desert and rockholes and were controlling the dogs as a food source. When the European settlers arrived the aboriginals came out of the desert and began to eat different foods and live in town. The government, pastoralists and prospectors began controlling the dogs. The government formed the APB with crown land doggers. For 100 years there was a very prosperous sheep industry but approximately 28 years ago the government of the day started putting off all the doggers, resulting now in more dogs in Australia than any other time in history. Dogs are destroying all our native wildlife. In the 21 years I have been on Walling Rock I was very active in baiting foxes and cats in the early days. When the dogs came in 1997 I was baiting and trapping dogs and they just kept coming. For over 10 years the foxes have been eradicated and in that time I have seen a population explosion of mallee fowl and all different sizes of marsupials. I work very hard to control the dogs, it's an ongoing issue. As a whole the kangaroos will become extinct because of dogs and that's a certainty.

Dogs are not being controlled in open crown land and they just keep coming. The only commonsense solution I can see for the pastoral industry, for the survival of our native animals and the cheapest in the long run is to dog proof the pastoral stations by erecting a dog proof fence. From the S.A. border, north to the transcontinental line to Gunnadorah around Gunnadorah, Kinclaven and Kanandah back along the trans line to the station country. Boundary fence all the station country right around to 80 mile beach north of Port Hedland. This is achievable by the government putting so much aside every year for materials only and pastoralists, environmental groups and general public by volunteering their time and equipment to construct the fence. Once the fence is up it would take up to 5 years in some places to eradicate the dogs inside the fence. Following this with a baiting program once or twice a year to keep the cats and foxes out of the rangelands from the agricultural areas. You then would be able to reintroduce endangered fauna over one quarter of W.A.'s rangeland which would be an enormous value to the environment.

Another note on the environment about open cuts. There is a considerable amount of open cuts on pastoral leases. Now, they fence these open cuts for environmental reasons for the vegetation. To me I feel it is an environmental disaster because the pits I have seen which are unfenced still grow vegetation. The only reason I see why they fence them is to make mining companies spend more money, just another added industry. Kangaroos can smell the water and they knock themselves around trying to get a drink. Then they get trapped in the fenced areas. Ultimately they kill themselves getting in or out. I have photos to prove this. If the fence is to keep livestock out, they should build trap yards at the mouth of the open cut for mustering stock and to

allow kangaroos to be able to drink. There must have been tens of thousands of roos allowed to die on these fences.

Land tenure- As you may be aware i have a parliamentary inquiry going on into the corruption of the sandalwood industry.

From 2009-2012 ,Grant Pronk and John Slorach from FPC has been saying that i do not own the station they own it(meaning the government) and they can do whatever they like.They have indiscriminately cleared land,pulled undersized trees,have not reseeded even though they have been paid taxpayers money to do so,Dumped their rubbish on Walling Rock,leaking sump oil on the ground andleaking oil and diesel from machinery for the last 5years.Their contractors have stolen my infrastructure,threatened me,had firearms unlawfully and wrecked my roads.This has continued for 5 years because they are government and they can do whatever they like on your pastoral lease.

The government has put our rates up one hundred percent in the past 12 years even though they have reduced their services and we earn less on our stations.Over the years there has been reviews into the pastoral industry.The last one was conducted by Wendy Duncan on the 13th October 2009 by the Southern Rangeland Pastoral Advisory Group.Out of the findings of the reviews not one recommendation has been implemented. You hear in the news of the world food security and you just really think how incompetent these governments are and how poorly they treat the pastoral industry.

Pastoral leases are supposed to cover 90 million hectares in W.A..Just think of the amount of food and wool that could be produced by that 90 million hectare,however because of the red and green tape,incompetence and corruption, this isn't happening. I beleive pastoral leases should remain only pastoral leases.

This is all being recorded in history and future generations will look at it and say with such a food shortage they will say why did they treat the pastoral industry so badly.

I think the only way for the pastoral industry to go forward is for half of it to be foreign owned because these foreign countries won't put up with the incompetence that we are saddled with.

They should be renewed for 50 years in 2015 for security of tenure.You hear stories about the government wanting to close the pastoral industry down and i tell you what they are not doing a bad job of it and for what reason i don't know.

Brendon Grylls should not be given unprecedented power to terminate leases.I have proof of him using his ministerial powers for his own personal vendettas against pastoralists over the corruption in the sandalwood industry.Which i was going to bring up in the parliamentary inquiry into the sandalwood industry.

If you want more information about this issue i would be happy to travel to Perth to show you the evidence.If for reasons a pastoral station should be taken off a pastoralist they should be made to be sold.As i know Brendon Grylls would love to take my station off me over the corruption of the sandalwood industry and naming minister Redman as a liar in parliament when protecting FPC. As i have put 21 years of my life into this station and a considerable amount of money, i know i won't be walking away from here with nothing.Other pastoralists would be of the same mind.

In the same token you would have to be mad to buy a station in the current situation with the governments stance on pastoral leases and are sick of the way they are treated.There are a lot of stations on the market(almost half) because the pastoralists are uncertain of the industries future.

Brendon Grylls making us have indemnity insurance for 10 million a year should not be applied. There are a lot of things that happen on our stations that are out of our control.For example when FPC came here sandalwooding, in their contracts they must have licensed vehicles.They have been here 5 years with unlicensed vehicles.When i contacted FPC 5 years ago about this they just said they were government and can do what they like. Their contractors have got a huge drug and alcohol addiction.When i asked John Slorach how often they drug and alcohol tested them and was told they don't have too they are government contractors.They use heavy machinery on my place so why should i be liable for that?

We have ming companies do whatever they like.We have thousands of gold detectors in the winter months over the whole of thr rangeland and half the time we don't even know they are there.So why should we be liable for something that is out of our control..Pastoralists should be able to apply for diversification permits in an easier manner.Omitting a lot of red tape and less a financial burden.The Department of Parks and Wildlife owning pastoral lease ,why? In my book a pastoral lease should always remain a pastoral lease.DPAW using tax payers money to buy these stations for no financial gain is wrong.However they have bought these stations now and the government should be giving them more money to run these properties.DPAW has no money in their budget to look after these stations.

Native Title- I hear native title will eventually win over this land and the story is they want to charge us rent for being here. I really don't have an issue with renting from Native Title as they couldn't be any worse than the current owners.But you must remember only one person can own it.So if we pay rates to Native Title that must mean we wouldn't have to pay rates to DOLA.

I look forward to hearing from you.If needed i am willing to travel to Perth.

You are welcome to come to Walling Rock to see first hand some of my issues,i have mentioned in this submission.

Yours sincerely Keith Mader

P.S. I will try and send the photos tonight but if i am unable to i will do it in Kalgoorlie tomorrow.