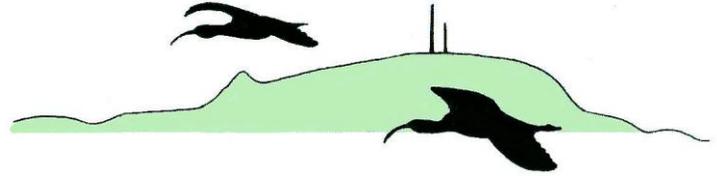


ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST
& CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 369, ORANGE NSW 2800



Livestock Health and Pest Authority Review
PO Box 8731
Gundaroo NSW 2620
Email: secretary@lhpareview.com.au

We are writing in response to the invitation for submissions to the review of the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and the associated Act.

The Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society Inc. was established in 1975, incorporated in 1993 and has about 100 individual and family members. Through its membership the Society has considerable professional expertise in natural history and knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Central Tablelands and the region more generally.

The society welcomes the opportunity to have input into this submission and is particularly keen to bring to the reviewers' attention the following points in relation to the management and ownership of Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves (TSRs).

1. TSRs should not be sold off, but should be kept in public lands and be managed by a single, well funded agency with proven rural land management expertise and on-ground staff. TSRs not only provide benefit to rural people for stock movement, but have a wider public benefit to the region, state and nation. Management of the reserves should be funded accordingly ie out of public funds.
2. Public benefit should be recognised in the Act ie the objects of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* should be amended to include guidelines for environmental management through multiple use (grazing/recreation/education/science etc.) of TSRs.
3. The public benefits of TSRs are many, but, to our Society, the two most important benefits are:
 - a. The fact that they create a network of habitat connectivity across the landscape.

- b. The role they play in filling the gaps in the national reserve system, where lands were originally reserved in areas unsuited to agriculture, thus alienating many ecosystems from the opportunity to be included in the system.
4. TSRs also provide an extremely important role in provision of recreation, education and scientific survey – our Society uses TSRs regularly for outings as they are often the only areas in the region with a reasonably undisturbed canopy and/or understorey, at least in areas that have not been leased for set stock grazing. For this reason, many contain EECs (Ecologically Endangered Communities) in much better condition than on private land.
5. When TSRs are being assessed for their value, there needs to be more recognition of the other values, not just economic, of these unique reserves: ecological, recreational, educational, scientific, cultural heritage and landscape aesthetics.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this review.

Cilla Kinross
President,
Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society

27th September 2011