

Climate Related Financial Disclosure

Jay and Rebecca Mohr-Bell, Mathison Station Katherine NT

We are beef producers in the Northern Territory, aiming to produce high quality beef for a range of markets from a highly fertile herd. We purchased a largely undeveloped block in 2011 and since then have focused on developing the station with a long term view towards productivity and sustainability. We have implemented a strict biosecurity management plan and undertaken detailed landtype mapping to calculate sustainable carrying capacities. We use a system of rotational spelling and strategic burning to manage pasture growth and are developing additional watering points to better manage grazing. We are currently in the process of developing a station-wide digital communication system which will enable us to remotely monitor rainfall, watering points and cattle performance.

We operate in a unique environment using systems which have been developed and tailored to cater to this environment, the available labour resources and market demands.

We do not believe that Australia should be committing our industries to meet international standards which have been not been developed with an understanding of our unique resources and systems. As agricultural producers we are stewards of land and biodiversity. We are not just feeding the world but protecting and enhancing critical environmental services and we have the potential to do much more with support.

However, the standards to which we are held must recognize our unique position in the environment and market systems. Only then can we continue to contribute to the Australian economy through the provision of goods, services and jobs as well as protection of the environment. As the saying goes, "it is hard to be green when you're in the red".

Australian producers are already some of the most highly regulated in the world but also considered world best when it comes to producing high quality agricultural products in a safe and efficient manner. As predominantly family owned businesses we do not have the capacity to continually deal with more regulation that does not contribute to improving our productivity nor does our public service have the capacity to effectively monitor and enforce the application of existing regulation, let alone additional red tape.

I would urge you to undertake far greater consultation and research with land managers in all regions before committing to these standards.