

**Submission  
No 33**

**PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL STOCK  
FENCING) BILL 2024**

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Succinctly, virtual fencing in our circumstances would be beneficial to stock health and welfare, land care, pasture improvement, soil improvement, weed and pest management, the establishment of sustainable regenerative farming strategies and profitability.

To expound, we have hill country, natural waterways and contours which are difficult to fence and maintain. As they extend into neighbouring properties it means that good grazing land often cannot be utilised due to adjacent crops growing. Virtual fencing would assist in effectively managing this difficulty.

As our property is black soil the virtual fencing and software would mean livestock could be always tracked and monitored more efficiently including in wet boggy conditions, enhancing the wellbeing of the livestock.

Control of feral pigs by poisoning is also dangerous to livestock even when neighbours are poisoning - again virtual fencing would benefit the welfare and safety of the livestock.

By using virtual fencing dams and sensitive land care areas could be protected. For example, areas where soil erosion prevention and rehabilitation measures were in place.

Virtual fencing would protect livestock while addressing a serious weed problem such as variegated thistle. Not only protecting but also allow the use of livestock at certain times in specific areas as part of the management plan to improve the pasture through efficient grazing methods.

Using virtual fencing to designate smaller areas of grazing, we would be in a better position to implement regenerative grazing strategies sooner benefitting the livestock, pasture, cropping land, soil, and the environment. In the long term also reducing the dependency on chemicals and synthetic fertilisers.

With virtual fencing, we, as producers would be able to integrate livestock and crops into our management plan, again with better outcomes for the soil, crops, pasture, livestock, and feral pest control.

In recent years we have experienced damage to farm infrastructure due to severe storms and flooding. We were unable to crop land until it was repaired. Unfortunately, there was ample feed for livestock which could have been used to help balance the loss of income from no crops except for the intensive amount of fencing which needed to be repaired and lack of available fencing contractors.

Considering the points and outcomes outlined, I feel it would be a great advantage to amend the legislation to permit the use of virtual stock fencing devices in New South Wales.