

**Submission  
No 48**

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

**Name:** Mr Bruce Christie

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My wife and I own and manage a 1000ha grazing property running Angus breeders. We endeavour to manage our land to improve soil, diversity and the water leaving our property. We have instigated time controlled grazing methods to improve natural features and to allow for total groundcover at all times. Our property is quite complex with variable soil types, areas of remnant vegetation and quite steep terrain in some areas. The combination of these factors makes it difficult to construct conventional fencing that allows areas of different land classes to be separated and managed according to its capacity. We have used electric fencing that gives us more options but it is still difficult to graze for the benefit of the animals and land with the constriction of where fencing can be installed.

The development of an option of e-fencing for some areas would allow us to graze the property to the best environmental outcomes ie concentrating stock in areas of potential high production and either limiting or totally excluding stock from sensitive areas eg steep or riparian.

Cost is also a factor with the construction of conventional or electric fencing. It being expensive per kilometre with labour for construction difficult to find for such work.

The ability to monitor stock movement over a device would improve welfare outcomes, especially during calving where individuals that are close to calving can be monitored hourly and enable a timely intervention if there are issues. It is often the case with calving cattle that they move to obscure areas to calve making it difficult to monitor progress. This is particularly pertinent with calving heifers.

With the ever increasing costs of grazing this option would allow us to remain viable and continue to look after the land.