



18 Aug 2016

Queensland Country Life, Brisbane

Author: Sally Cripps • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Classification : Rural • Audience : 24,407 • Page: 26 • Printed Size: 163.00cm²
Market: QLD • Country: Australia • Words: 278 • Item ID: 643799701

 isentia.mediaportal

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

PARLIAMENTARY
LIBRARY

INFORMATION ANALYSIS ADVICE

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) licensed copy
or Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth) s. 48A copy

Page 1 of 1

Plea from forum to depoliticise agriculture

DEPOLITICISING the agricultural landscape was seen as one of the keys to allowing primary producers and their communities to achieve their full potential and be valuable contributors to the Australian economy, when the Grow Queensland forum took questions from the floor at Blackall.

Speakers such as local grazier Ian Macdonald described himself and fellow producers as subject to ‘ignorant agenda-setting’ and asked if the business of grazing could remain viable if this continued.

It was a topic close to the heart of Rabobank state manager Brad James, who said it would never go away and graziers would have to be prepared for flip-flopping.

“The change will come from agriculture itself and seeing our value,” he said. “But we’ve got to look to our strengths. We are not efficient in the global scene as soon as we apply labour to what we do.”

He argued against subsidisation, saying that it was impossible to subsidise one’s way to viability, and said that rather than succumbing to the idea that the brand of grazing and farming brand has been damaged beyond repair by images of drought and animal welfare, Mr James said it was a case of

links being broken and needing repair.

“People in the country think the city doesn’t like them but that’s not so, they just don’t understand them,”

he said.

He pointed to the Farm Experience (FX) Program, developed by Rabobank to give city teenagers the

opportunity to spend a week on-farm, living with a farming family and learning about life on the land and food production.

Backing that up, Elders manager Daven Vohland and QRAA’s John Rossberg highlighted schemes and programs available.

– SALLY CRIPPS