

12-Sep-08

Review of Non-Forestry Managed Investment Schemes  
Business Tax Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Ref: **Non Forestry MIS**

I would like to comment for the Review of Non- Forestry Managed Investment Schemes.

FarmLink are a rural merchandise business specializing in project irrigation & soil moisture monitoring as well as other agricultural inputs. We are a company employing 8 permanent staff + up to 12 staff contracting during the year and the majority of our business is supply to large specialized projects which are MIS projects.

The MIS projects in horticulture have regenerated life & enthusiasm in our area into an industry which was struggling and going backwards.

The MIS projects operate on a highly technical level, operate at a size that allows global competition and employ a lot of people and require the services of specialist business's like ourselves which in turn employ staff and create jobs where there were none before these projects.

The opportunity to further develop more effective, environmentally sound Agricultural best practice is possible through the investment, research & development of these projects. Some of the exciting new projects over the past couple of years have been Red Fleshed Grapefruit out of Kununurra & Truffles out of Manjimup. I would not think that these projects would have had the potential to happen on the same level without being an MIS project.

As we have had to develop our business to support these projects over the past 5 years I would think without the support of the Horticultural MIS projects we would be forced to lay off a number of staff and our business may not be able to survive in the future. We have been also looking at expanding our business to other areas (Kununurra) to cater for some of these projects.

I would like to raise our objections to the decision taken to change the tax eligibility form 1 July 2008 and raise the following points if Non Forestry MIS does not continue.

- Money that was going into high value horticulture crops, employing people, supporting business and creating export income will possibly now be directed into blue gum plantations.
- The decision takes millions of investment dollars out of rural Australia at a time when a lot of horticulture is struggling and in one of the worst droughts in Australia's history.
- Premium Horticultural land with **Water** available may well be sold to timber plantations because of this decision to change the tax eligibility.
- Non Forestry MIS should I believe have the same rules as Forestry MIS
- Any changes that have an impact on people on the ground (eg. Suppliers, contractors, employees, nurseries etc) should be phased in over a time period so there is time to adjust these business's and survive.



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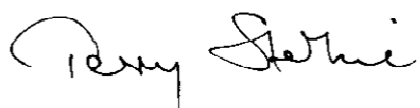
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I would like to think that Non-Forestry MIS would continue because of the benefits to small business like ourselves and the benefit to rural towns & communities at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Starkie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a distinct 'S'.

Terry Starkie  
Managing Director