

**AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY BERNARD O'NEIL WITH MR ROGER BROCKHOFF OF LENSWOOD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2005 FOR THE PROJECT ON THE HISTORY OF THE ANIMAL AND PLANT CONTROL COMMISSION.**

**Tape 1, Side A**

Roger, thanks very much for agreeing to be involved in the project, and I thought a good place to start would be just to outline a little bit of your personal background, leading up to how you became involved in the activities of pest plant, pest animal area.

I was born 78 years ago. I've lived on this property all of my life. So I'm into fruit growing, general farming with cattle. There was a time when we were very concerned about the rapid rise in weed population in the Adelaide Hills. This we spoke to our local councils about, through the Bureau movement. The Bureau movement felt something ought to be done.

This is the Agricultural Bureau?

The Agricultural Bureau. From that we formed the Adelaide Hills Weeds Eradication Committee, which had meetings and display days at Mount Barker TAFE [Technical and Further Education College], of which I happened to be President of the Council, of the College. With the involvement of people from the Department, weed identification was undertaken. A lot of people didn't know what we were talking about in the weeds here in those days. So we moved on from there, from annual jaunts, which moved to a day and night show, and hoped to draw some attention to the lack of action by councils and lack of action by government.

Can I ask, Roger, when was this happening? When you were president of the TAFE would be 1970s?

I was president of TAFE for 43 years.

Do you think it would be about the 1970s?

Yes, roughly.

OK. We can find out later. Just another quick question, then. You just mentioned there was some local concern about weeds.

Yes.

Was that a new concern, had people been interested in the weed problem before?

A few of us in the Bureau system were very much involved. From a committee of about 10 people, formed over several Bureaus, we selected a running committee which looked at the weeds that were concerning them in their own locality. Finally we took it to the Weeds Board in Adelaide. We decided that we didn't get a very good hearing, came away from there disappointed, so we didn't give up: we decided to do something practical, and we started pulling African daisy for a weekend on the [Hills Face] of Adelaide, which we had doctors and 1000 people working for a bit of a pull on African daisy. African daisy was the very obvious weed on the [Hills Face] at that stage. I remember Arthur Tideman had some Africans out here. They said, 'Well, show us your African daisy'. In Africa it grows about 9 inches high. (laughs)

Arthur said, 'You're standing by one'. He said, 'What are you talking about?'. He's shown a plant that's 7 feet high! (laughter), well above his head. He said, 'Good golly. I've never seen one so big!'. We said, 'Why don't you pull it up?'. (laughter) Anyhow ...

Big in size and big in numbers, from the sound of it.

Yes.

Why had you chosen the Hills Face when you said you were going to ...?

We chose the Hills Face because it was obvious what we could do to the front hills by changing the colour of them. They could see from Adelaide that they browned off as the plants died.

Do you remember which area of the hills, which part?

Yes. Straight above Burnside.

So quite visible.

And up through Cleland.

Quite visible from the plains.

Very visible. I think we all met at Waterfall Gully that day, and there were mums and kids and ... Everybody else was interested bar the government at that stage, although I must say that Ross Story was very supportive. Anyhow, we got our committee going, and this proved very successful because the hype from it spread to all the papers and the Lions Clubs joined in. There were quite a lot of volunteers on the day. We struck a very hot day, as a matter of fact, and it was just as well it wasn't any problems with the handicapped people (laughs) that climbed those hills, and we did keep a supply of drinks and things up to them.

Anyhow, we went on from there to where we decided that we would go to the Minister. Ross Story was very interested and took up the cudgels in Parliament for us. That really launched the Noxious Weeds Eradication Committee, which became eventually from a Weeds Committee and Adelaide Hills Noxious Weeds Eradication Committee one commission. This commission had an Act of its own: it developed powers that no other commission ever had. When I said, 'How do we exercise the problem of not being able to achieve the desired aim if we've got to go to the courts? Because if we go to the courts to get jurisdiction against a landholder, we will be spending his money on lawyers' fees when the money should be spent on weeds work on his own property'. So I moved that we try and get the power to the commission for the commission to hear the appeal that he could make against the action of the commission, and spending the money back on his own property with no charge for us to administer it. This worked very well ... I suppose about three cases in 20-odd years of action by the commission that we didn't get the desired result. That was all over South Australia. So it was a very useful clause to insert and we were able to do that with the help of the Minister.

So this is the Pest Plant Commission you're talking about?

Yes.

Right. What was your place on the Commission?

I was the Commissioner. I had the privilege of hearing the majority of those appeals. I always pointed out that a landholder had the right to still go to court if he wished, but he must remember that he would be getting charged and he'd still have to do the work, which kind of frightened them into it a bit to get going with their work.

Roger, it must have been interesting that you were a landholder but you were adjudicating, so to speak, in ....

Yes. Well, you see, that was the strength of it, wasn't it? Because my strength was the fact that [I could say,] 'I am a landholder come to you today to speak to you about what's-the-name, and these officers So-and-so and So-and-so are accompanying me today'. I usually said something like, 'Would you fellows go and look at the paddocks over on the side of the hill there and see if the [Salvation] Jane or whatever it is is in those paddocks as well? And I'll go down the bottom here with the owner and talk to him.' There was a Mr So-and-so from (laughs) Kangaroo Island who didn't like the Commission or the weeds business at all, had been on council over there, and I said to him when we got down below the paddock, 'Now, have you got the weed?'. That was the first question. 'Yes, you can *see* I've got the weed'. 'Right, then you're guilty. Now, what are you going to do about it? Are you going to clean it up and spend your money back on your property, or are you going to spend it through the lawyers?'. He said, 'I'll have to think that one through'. I said, 'I wouldn't think too long about it, because you admit you've got the weed and you wouldn't want to be known as a poor farmer because you've been a leading citizen in the area: what about doing a paddock at a time for me?'. That's how we achieved things. By three or four visits over the years we cleaned up that property, and we went back and had a little conference about how much weed was in the other paddocks and things of that nature, and it all turned out to be quite easily managed.

Then, of course, we came to the problem of these blokes were so successful they might as well take on the vertebrates as well. (break in recording)

There were many good stories. Max O'Neil was a field officer for us. He was very capable and knew what we were about. I haven't heard from Max for a year or two. I don't know whether he's still going or not.

He's about.

He's about. He must be creeping along ...

He's getting on a little bit. He's no relation, by the way.

Well, Max and I'd spent all day out in the Mallee. It was a stinking hot day, and we were looking at skeleton weed. He said, 'I don't know about you, but I could do with a beer'. (laughs) I said, 'I'll have one with you'. So Max swerved off the road, pulled up, we got out to go into the pub and walked in. It looked an unusual kind of a pub. He said, 'We want a beer'. She said, 'Look, you'll have to go two doors down; this is the hospital'. (laughter) Lots of funny little things on the way. But ...

But you have a lot of fun on those field trips, don't you, with the right characters.

Yes. So we progressed along with the accommodation of the vertebrates and looking at the overall picture, which we didn't like for a start but we grew used to it and it worked out all right in the long run. Horses seemed to be a bit of a nuisance in some areas that we couldn't get the landholders to accommodate our views. I've seen horses in paddocks that were absolutely starving because they had no feed at all and the owner was in Adelaide and these were out the Mid North. Those things had to be corrected, so we set about correcting them.

Our first president was Peter Trumble. Peter did a very good job. Peter Barrow followed him. Subsequently we had a run of other officers, all doing a good job, in head office. Of course, all had to prove themselves to us. (laughs) We were a bit suspicious of changes.

So these people like Trumble and Barrow were, of course, with the Agriculture Department.

Yes. They chaired these meetings. Lovely fellows in their own right. Then of course we had to expand the commission. We got in stalwarts like Des Ross from Owen, a farmer with his feet well and truly on the ground, and a number of others of his type who boosted the figures of the commission. Of course, we had to have a lady representative: that was achieved with this lady from the South East. So really we were going ahead in leaps and bounds, and I think there were 57 cases of appeal that were heard, and about two or three of them were half-hearted about it and the rest were very much up with it.

One of the other things that happened was that we had a weeds officer way out on the Eyre Peninsula. It was a very hot day and 9 o'clock at night his wife rang up and said, 'So-and-so's not home yet. Do you know where he is? I want to go and check on him'. We said, 'No, we don't know exactly where he's working; we know about where he's working'. We knew what spray he was using. It was a bit of a problem. So I'd already said that our field officers should have two-way radio. They said, 'The government would never come at that'. The government came at it next day. (laughter)

It's one of the interesting changes, to see what past practice was acceptable ... what was acceptable once was no longer acceptable.

That's right.

You think of people going bush in the early 1900s, late 1800s, just go on a camel ...

Yes.

... one or two of them only.

Yes. Be out there on your own all day in the heat with vaporising toxic fumes: it was a little bit deadly. But they were the things that mattered in those days.

Well that's a whole issue in itself, of course. If you're using sprays and chemicals and so on, herbicides, establishing what's safe and what's not safe, and what works and what doesn't work.

That's right, yes.

Any cases come to mind for you, that you had to ...?

Well, they have in the horticultural field. One fellow wouldn't have been alive today if his wife hadn't been a senior nurse that jumped in an ambulance and took him to Royal Adelaide, got him treatment: he was using a product which we won't name, but it was a Shell product. When I went into it, I found out that that Shell product had been debarred in America, it was debarred in Queensland, and they'd forced it onto the South Australian market. I was determined to get rid of it. I'd spent a bit of time up in Papua New Guinea and there was a whole warehouse of German chemicals in drums and cartons, and you wouldn't have used the quantity up within 10 years; but the story was, each time the rep. came around, this would be coming out soon, we can't get the ingredients any more. So I said, 'If you don't shift out of this building and put your office somewhere else, you won't know about it because you'll die'. It was holus-bolus aerial spraying with toxic chemicals. So we didn't have the problem to ourselves here; it was all over – spraying the swamps and stuff with this product that was very, very toxic. Why the ... well, the government didn't really know anything about it, but locals in charge of the store were supposed to have known.

They should have had some scientific officer giving some advice or something, surely.

Yes, perhaps they should have. Yes, it was ... Anyhow, we built up an empire of weed and vertebrate control that I believe was second to none. We toured every State in Australia and looked at what the West Australians were doing. They joined us on a tour of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. We were out along the River Murray at the time and they said, 'It's time to knock off', we went into the Wentworth Racecourse, had our evening meal there: they'd got a good cook there, cooks in camp ovens, and when I arrived there were seven camp ovens going on the coals. (laughs) The scent was beautiful. The next thing, next vehicle in was a police car: 'What are you doing? What have you got for evening meal tonight, Scottie?'. He's lifting the lids and looking in. He said, 'Duck'. He says, 'Duck season's not open yet'. And the bloke doing the cooking said, 'You know that weed that grows on the Victorian side of the river? It's such-and-such, and doesn't grow on this side?'. He said, 'Yes'. 'Well', he said, 'That's what they're feeding on. Now', he said, 'Here's a duck here not cooked yet'. 'You

smell its orifice'. (laughter) He said, 'That's a Victorian duck!'. (laughs) There are some characters in the bush, I'll tell you.

You get a bit of bush humour on the trips.

Yes. But everybody was different, everybody had problems – major problems.

You said, Roger, that you went to visit other States.

Yes.

Did you find other States coming to see what South Australia was doing?

Yes. Yeah, they came over here too, yes.

Was that on a regular basis, or just an occasional ...?

Every two years or so we'd have a get-together in one state or the other.

It sounds like you were putting a fair bit of time into ...

Yes, there was a bit of time put in.

Do you recall how much time it would take? And you were running the property here.

It was a monthly meeting, which was all day, and whatever time I was pulled off the job to hear an appeal or something of that nature. Of course there were the other incidentals like field days you were expected to be at. But it was all interesting, it was all part of a lifetime.

There was more or less a volunteer ...

We were paid a retainer for sitting fee: that was OK, it was generous enough. I don't know what sitting fees are worth today, but they're certainly a long way above what we were getting.

I think, in terms of your own contribution, you could have taken the easy path and just kept running the property here; but to put that effort in ...

Yes, that's right.

... that suggests to me that Roger Brockhoff had a view or a vision about how to handle these weeds and pests and so on.

You did have a vision of what was needed, and there was only one way to get it round and that was to push the case, and we did that a certain way. That's one reason that people like Des Ross were brought on to the commission: he was a contributor of like mind. Quite a number of others came on to the commission with the same attitude, which was great. So, from start to finish, it was a success story. (sound of wind chimes) So I guess you've got some questions to ask me.

## **End of Side A, Tape 1**

### **Tape 1, Side B**

Roger, you were just saying there that the contribution of people like Des Ross ... obviously it's important to get the right mix of people –

Yep.

– and how did the Commission build up over time, identify the people to serve on the Commission and so on? And who chose them, that sort of thing?

We were asked to look at people and nominate them, and it just happened that I nominated Des.

He was well known, of course.

He was well known: he was in the Libraries Board and a farmer in his own right, a leader in his community; a man of considerable thought given to the topic he had his face up against. And he kept at it like a terrier at a rat hole because he believed in it.

He was a good ally.

Very much.

Then you had the government officials as well.

That's right, yes. There were some very good government officials too. There was the funny sides of it and there was serious sides of it, there were times when you thought, 'Gee, this is all too hard'. (laughs)

Were those circumstances where you get on well with the people you're dealing with – the landowners, for example – that's important that you get on well with them, you have good relations and you have some success; and of course there are those people who – in this case, you're government, even if you aren't personally, but you're a government body and 'We don't want to help, we don't want to be involved.'

Yes.

So there must have been cases there where landowners said, 'No, we're not going to eradicate the pest plant, the pest animal'? Then you're going to get that situation you mentioned earlier, you're the Commissioner, you know, you're the Commission, deciding.

Yes. Not only that, you always got the Bureaus, the Agricultural Bureaus, behind you, and they put on pressure from over half of South Australia! (laughs)

Do you recall some cases – and thinking of the good cases – that gave you satisfaction, that you were able to convince the landowner or landowner willingly complied and you were able to say, 'Look, we have eradicated that rabbit or that weed or whatever'? Are there any that give you particular satisfaction?

(laughs) Yes. There's a fellow down at Kingston by the name of Brook[?]. We went down to visit him because he was not carrying out his weeds work. There was the council, the weeds officers from the area, the Commission, all gathered round his property and he wasn't home. Anyhow, we were standing in his backyard arguing and suddenly he appeared, came up from the beach. He's right on the coast. I had a look at him and I thought, 'By Jove! I've seen you before somewhere'. I talked to him for a while. He said, 'You don't happen to be Davy's boy, do you?'. (laughs) That's my father, you see. We're related! So I said, 'What's your problem?' He said, 'The Council hasn't done the right thing by me.' I said, 'Well, what's wrong?'. Come on, we'll have a talk about it. I want to go over to these paddocks over near your sheds. So you fellas go and have a look at those on the other side of the road'. He only had 60 acres of land

there. While they were away I said to him, 'What's eating you about the Council?'. He said, 'They want all that low land for drainage for the town, for sewerage. They offered me 21 000 for it. I was prepared to accept it but not on their exact terms. So I'm between the devil and the deep blue sea'. I said, 'Let's look at your weeds first. You've got the weed?'. 'Hell', he said, 'I've *got* it alright'. I said, 'What's wrong with spraying?'. He said, 'Listen, mate. They pinched money for the sewerage pipes; they haven't paid me a cent'. 'How long ago was that?'. 'Several years'. So I said, 'You're going to promise me you'll clean up your weeds if I get you your justice?'. 'Yes', he said. So that's the arrangement we came to. They swapped him: they bought the 41 acres, he got his value out of that as well as the pond area, and everybody was sweet. It was a case of misunderstanding between a ratepayer and a council.

So a good outcome all round.

Yes, good outcome. Yes, lots of those.

It's important to capture some of those good stories because it's easy to dwell on the negative ...

Yes.

... and in this area, of course, it's almost fatalistic: you can never eradicate all the weeds.

That's right.

And so some people say, 'Why bother?' But you obviously saw value and purpose in ...

That's right.

And it's interesting to think how different the landscape is now, as a result of those activities ...

Yes.

... you know, eradication and so on.

Yes. I can still see a young fellow who met us on his property down Cape Jervis way. We went down a creek and he climbed up on a rock, twice as high as this ceiling, and stood up there – only room for him to stand – and addressed us from up there! (laughs) I'll never forget him. He thought he was addressing a court case. It's had its funny sides; it's had its very serious sides.

On the serious side, how do you compare the landscape now compared to when you had the first tentative steps towards a noxious weeds committee and so on? We're talking over ... close to 40 years now. Just in your own locality, in the same region.

In the locality the biggest menace still in the Adelaide Hills is Salvation Jane. Until they really get into that and bite a man-sized chunk out of it they won't succeed. A lot of the other weeds are virtually gone. I know that they're waiting on the biological control, but a weed can go a long way before you ever find your biological control. Don't stop your biological work ... don't stop your control work that you've been doing. It'll come out as a balance there somewhere, some time.



But in general terms, Roger, the Hills area: do you see it much improved?

Yes, it's quite improved. The biggest menace, of course, is the horse problem in the Adelaide Hills, where horses are shifted around too frequently and some areas have got a high influx of horses. I'm particularly talking about Salvation Jane at the moment: poor pastures are caused by over-stocking and the first thing to appear is Jane, so that you've got to get some competition going to keep that Jane ...

One of the other things that's happened is now the growing environmental awareness with the timber, the vegetation ...

Yes.

... the trees and so on.

Yes, sure.

So it's interesting to compare the landscape over time.

Yes. (break in recording) ... a fellow who's just sold his farm in Western Australia, of 8000 acres of grain every year, and he's come over here to retire, to Woodside ...

Another person attracted to the area!

Yes.

But I was going to ask, just before we paused there, we were talking about native vegetation and there's a growing environmental awareness and so on: you don't knock the trees down now the way you used to and so on.

That's right.

But related to that is the impact of man in this area: you're getting more sub-division – more people in, I should say – more sub-divisions, more building. You've still got that tension between man and the environment.

Absolutely. It was there from the day man first put his foot on the ground in this country. He destroyed something.

Did you get involved in the pest animal side of ...

Yes.

... things? To the same extent as the pest plants? Were you ...?

It didn't start at the same time, but it ...

I was thinking more of your own personal interest: were weeds the big issue, or ...?

Foxes and feral deer, dingoes, all played a part. Perhaps not as prominently as the weeds.

Part of that reflects your own interests ..

Oh, yes.

... I guess. What about your own experiences: foxes, rabbits, in this area?

Yes. Deer on the back ranges, feral deer.

Is that more recent, or was that ...?

That's been ongoing.

Ongoing, right.

Yes. They shot one here that was as high as a man the other night. They've got a group of people coming in shooting the deer out. They never went near a young orchard that was planted on the back hills there for about a fortnight, and every tree was ruined. They love the bark off the trees.

They work quickly.

Yes. And rabbits back in plague proportions again. The boys went out and they actually shot 17 and a couple of hares.

What about the impact of myxomatosis in this area, say, in the '50s?

Yes, myxomatosis was a wonderful thing when it first came in. Then, of course, it was how to control the ... (break in recording, laughter)

We can fill in the gap later, Roger.

Yes. ... .. But I've seen as a child rabbits in the Mallee where the farmers put in a netting fence to stop rabbits getting through, and the rabbits would be from 10 feet back, up the top of the wire netting, running up their own mob and jumping over. It was dreadful to see that when it was happening. Next time we went back there, a week later, another crop gone. They were dreadful times.

They were pretty cunning to work out how to get over!

Yes. Yes, they're very adaptable.

But you see lots of interesting tensions there: you talk about you've got rabbits, you've got soil problems, perhaps vegetation problems. All these things are interrelated, yet they were being treated independently by the Soil Conservation Board, ...

Sure.

... Vertebrate Pests etc.

Yes.

Did you sense at the time that these things should be more connected, integrated?

Yes. Gradually they were brought together simply because it was fairly easy to do and one just followed the other. As you knocked the rabbits off with myxo you had weeds officers and vermin officers able to deal with the calicivirus, and that went on for years and now we've got that as a tool. The animal always fights back, it doesn't matter what you do: you can never eradicate the last few. That's the big problem.

This is one of the things, of course ... (break in recording)

... sale of a house in Western Australia and tidying up of the farm finances over there, she's a part-Aboriginal woman who worked around here when she was younger, and she's a lovely person. I'm a little bit interested in the Aboriginal cultures: I've formed the first Aboriginal Lions Club in Australia to try and lead them out, help them along a bit.

You've got connections around the country.  
Yes.

We were talking about the pest animals and ...  
Yes.

Were there particular issues where you had personal satisfaction, in the sense of it gave you a lot of pleasure to see the treatments working, or people taking your advice?

I've actually always been a people's person, and by that I mean no damn use as a secretary, but I make a good chairman. I'm able to lead in that role, which gives me a lot of satisfaction and it's helped in a lot of cases to get me a position where I want to launch something from. That's always been a great pleasure of mine, particularly in the TAFE area and the Lions area. As you know, I've been a District Governor and I visited all these clubs.

I notice you've got a bit of the Lions memorabilia here in the house.  
Yes. Yes, it's quite amazing, really.

But you mentioned that in the context of, going back to the start of the story, with the noxious weeds, how you were able to get the Lions Club, the service groups, all interested in that ...  
That's right.

... culling of African daisy and so on.  
Yes.

You mentioned TAFE, but that sparks off in my mind the question about education: what sort of role did the commission have in educating landholders and educating the public about its work? Was that something that was significant?

We trained their field inspectors. There was a fair bit of training going on between TAFE and the Department in those days. But it's waned somewhat because they've now got enough officers trained but I guess shortly they'll have to do that over again, but then the government took on some of it itself. (break in recording)

While we've paused for a cup of tea, Peter Brockhoff is going to add a little bit of his reminiscences about the origins of pest plant work, the weeds and so on.

Peter Brockhoff: I reckon it started back when I was a teenager and I used to go out with Dad with a hoe chopping off Scotch thistles out around the property, and the usual thing for a Saturday morning at that time of year. We'd been working fairly well, it was a warm day, we were hot, so we stopped at the walnut tree and stretched out flat on our backs. At that stage we were watching the Scotch thistle seeds floating in from over the top of the range from other

people's properties, landing where we'd just been cleaning up our property. From there Dad took that back to the local Ag. Bureau at Balhannah – he was a member of Balhannah Ag. Bureau at that stage – and I reckon that's where it started.

What age would you have been, Peter.

I don't remember, Bernie: it could have been 15; 14, 15, somewhere round there.

So we're talking back in the ...?

We're talking '64, '65, somewhere round there.

It's interesting to have the personal reflection, Peter. (laughter) Thank you. (telephone rings; break in recording)

Before that little pause, Roger, you had your son Peter giving a little personal reflection of seeing the thistle seeds in the air: it's always hard to know where the seed – no pun – of an idea comes from.

That's right.

Obviously, from Peter's story, an early awareness by you – and by him, of course, as a youngster – of the impact of weeds.

That's right.

Yes. And you wouldn't have been too keen to go out cleaning them up again!

No. He wouldn't normally go out there with a hoe today, would he?

As we just continue looking at the Commission, going towards the end of your time on the Commission, what were the circumstances there, when you left the Commission? You'd been on for a fair while, or at least working in this area for a fair while.

Yes. I was over 70 – retirement was 70 for many of these commissions at that time, but I was on for just a little bit over the 70 years – but I've got to say that I have a feeling of achievement.

We accomplished a great deal. Yes, I'd do it all again.

The fact that the Commission, as a merged entity, was sustained and grew indicates it has some success. I sort of hinted previously with an earlier question, it's interesting to think what the landscape would be like if the Commission hadn't been there doing the work.

That's right, yes ... everybody had a part to play in those days, and they all played it pretty well.

But what kept you going on the Commission for that length of time?

Interest. Interest. Yes, I've served on ...

That wasn't meant to be a negative-sounding question. Your dedication, you were enthusiastic about it and you were interested in the subject, but ultimately eradication is not always achievable.

That's right.

So was there ever any sense of bashing your head against a wall, 'We're not getting anywhere'?

You always made some progress and you were very careful to spend your dollars where you would make progress: that was important, whether it was treating the dingoes up north or

whether it was something else. But South Australia's pretty big and there's always something to do that you can win.

So it certainly sounds like you were dedicated and interested to the cause, the planting of the idea.

Yes ... There was a good friendship between the members of the Commission and the officers; there was no enmity between the government people and ourselves. I always think under those circumstances you can always march forward. I'm quite sure that somebody else can do it just as well in the long run. I never give up easily on anything.

Have you maintained the interest?

Yes.

So you keep up with current developments for NRM [Natural Resource Management] and so on?

Yes.

Have you any thoughts on ... NRM is now with us, but where are we going? Do you think about that?

Well, it'll have its problems, it'll have its successes. It will achieve a good aim it sets itself; it depends who the operators are how well it achieves that aim. We haven't used up all the good Des Rosses in this State. It's a pity to see Des not with us any more – I keep in touch with his wife and ring her up every now and then to see how she's going. She's retired off the farm ... at Owen and is living at Burnside. Between that and ... Of course, he was for two years chairman of the Australia-wide Local Government ...

Local Government Association?

... Association and he was very well-respected for that.

We shall see what happens with NRM and the developments that are about to unfold. I think it's good that we've had the chance to record some of your reminiscences about the origins in the weeds and pest animals area.

Yes.

I think we've probably done enough for today, anyway. We'll get this transcribed and you'll have a look at it ...

That's right.

... and perhaps add a bit more down the track.

Yeah.

But thanks, Roger ...

End of interview.