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Hodge calls for consistency in tree felling rules

Country Alliance candidate Miles Hodge, has called on Environment Minister Thwaites to treat farmers with the same consideration as city residents following the Minister's earlier statement that the coming fire season could be one of our worst for some time.

"There seems to be a double standard that allows city dwellers to clear trees that suffered from storm damage whilst farmers such as diary farmer, Ian Kuster from Nathalia, were forbidden from doing the same," he said.

Mr Kuster faces fines and sanctions for cutting down 28 storm damaged trees, including a requirement to plant 1080 trees to replace the ones cut down.

"It seems to be stupid to have a policy that forbids the clearing and collection of deadfall timber from roadsides for domestic use on the grounds of maintaining bio-diversity while not doing the same in the country."

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