

Letter to the Senate office Inquiry into Tree Clearing Guidelines

This document relates to a twenty six thousand acre, freehold property in the Mitchell district in Queensland.

The first two pages are an extract of a letter that we previously sent to Mr Peter Beatty and the Labour government of the time. The third is our mulga harvesting guidelines.

This property was purchased in 1993 with Intentions of improving its value over a period of time as this property had large areas of regrowth timber, including Mulga , Sandlewood, Limebush etc. In old ringbarked country.

Following on from 2003. We were not allocated any clearing in the ballot process . We applied for the property build up program through QRRRA. This was approved and the money went towards developing new and upgrading existing waters and treating some of our category x country. However this still left large areas of green and orange category country.

During the seven or eight years of drought we applied for and received two permits for fodder harvesting of mulga trees in which under the current guidelines allow only 45 percent available for harvesting and 55 percent retention. Every time an application for a permit is submitted there is a cost of 200 dollars.

In 2007 we were granted approval for forestry practices which are very involved . This basically means You can practise selective clearing with only blade or stickrake. This is a very costly practise.

To estimate the loss of income due to tree clearing guidelines I have split these into two categories.

1 Loss of Income

The difference between running 500 breeders and 700 breeders . This means a loss of \$80000 per annum. ie 200 calves at \$400.

2

This process of erosion of property rights and the ability to improve the country we purchased under the false pretence of having the right to develop and preserve the very thing that feeds our families and yours, our most precious resource, our land . Under these guidelines we can neither improve nor conserve this precious resource. In saying that If we can't improve this land and make a living, no one else is going to pay for this country to make a loss . So then you come to buyer resistance. So not only has the right to develop been taken away so has years , no generations of investment by the grazier.

In Closing all we need to resolve this problem is a little bit of common sense and real science, not political science because that is politics not land conservation.