

1st March, 2010.

The Finance and Public Administration Committee Inquiry into Native Vegetation.

I am a landholder at [] I have 2,000 hectares and run sheep and cattle. I have a parcel of land in that 2,000 hectares that is covered with stringy bark, blackbutt and box trees that I cannot remove if needed. I can run sheep and cattle on it, but cannot farm it.

I believe the current system of paying landholders to grow trees is biased and morally wrong. Then again many political parties seem to have a bias against small businesses and farmers. Unfortunately many politicians leave their morals in the lobby when they enter Parliament House. Most landholders who come into the above category are landholders who destroyed the habitat ruthlessly. Now they are rewarded for their incompetence.

Whereas the landholders who have respected the environment and habitat received no help or encouragement. The corporate farmer I feel is responsible for most of the degradation of the environment. When laws are gazetted to save the habitat the small farmer needs seems to be disregarded and dispensed to the hard bin and forgotten. The corporate farmer on the other hand seems escape unscathed.

I believe Government bodies should give more assistance to farmers who have a proven track record with conservation large stands timber. The landholder is presently allowed to clear a limited amount of timber yearly. You would think it would advantageous to the Government and Australia to reward the landholders for their conservationism.

Thank you,

Rodney Jones
