

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
 P.O. Box 6100
 Parliament House
 Canberra A.C.T. 2600
 Australia

Dear Sir,

I wish to make this submission on the Native Vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Measures to the Senate Inquiry which closes today 5/3/10

Sir,

I wish to state the following concerns I have with the present Native Vegetation Act.

1/ It has become extremely common for the timbered lands on rural properties to be subdivided off and sold.

This has resulted in the building of numerous domestic residences in heavily timbered areas which are extremely vulnerable during high risk bushfire periods.

2/ The Native Vegetation Act has created the economic collapse of a number of rural properties because unless the large, old, seed trees are removed it is too

expensive to control the seedling regrowth. This is especially true when referring to Cypress Pine.

3/ Some of the timbered lands or even the open timbered lands are environmentally fragile.

The combination of grazing livestock and timber can remove the grass cover leaving large areas of bare ground which is extremely vulnerable to soil erosion.

It is common to see timbered areas on hill sides where the combination of grazing livestock and timber has caused serious soil erosion. If stocking rates were more controlled and there was no timber the hill sides would be protected by dense grasses.

On this matter every location is different and what will hold true in one area won't apply in another.

4/ There has been no financial compensation to the farming community for the loss in land value and potential income caused by the Native Vegetation Act.

There are many examples where this has created hostility throughout the rural community.

I have observed children being raised in country families where they are taught by their parents that the government is corrupt and the law is something evil and to be disrespected.

I have also observed many examples where the Native Vegetation Act is fragmenting and polarising Australian society.

5/ In the very great majority of cases it is not possible to preserve the fragile species of native flora and fauna in an environmentally disrupted farm environment.

I believe environmental issues and agricultural issues are and should be separate. The Native Vegetation Act should be repealed and replaced with a Bio-region policy.

There should be a Department for Sustainable Agriculture to help farmers get on with doing what they do best grow food. There should also be a separate department called the Department for the Environment which concentrates on environmental issues. Where private land is used for environmental purposes these areas should be supervised by the Department for the Environment and the landholder receive just compensation.

The present system is seen by many as an excuse for a communist style takeover of private property without compensation by a government who lacks principle, common sense and the decency to treat it's citizens with respect, but above all it will not give the best possible outcome for the environment or possibly the Australian economy.

Yours Faithfully,

RICHARD BUSBY