

Land Rights Submission

I am the owner of four freehold properties
total area of about 1,200 hectares

One of the properties of about 400 hectares
has never been cleared however it had been
logged for timber by a previous owner.

When I purchased this paddock I
consulted a forestry officer for advice, in
his opinion the best way to develop this land
would be to clear away some of the dense
undergrowth to allow the cypress + ironbark
to develop.

This suited my own plan as I did not
intend to clear fell this paddock, all I wanted
to do was to clear it so that the useful trees
could develop, also opening up the land
would allow some grass to grow so that I
could run a few cattle

When the vegetation regulations were first
enforced this paddock was classed as not
of concern remnant vegetation + could be
cleared with a permit

(1)

I thought this classification was O.K. however to win the next election Beatty changed the rules. All land with remnant vegetation had to remain in its present state. No clearing allowed.

Early in this vegetation fiasco the Federal Gov stated that it would assist the State Gov with a compensation package for farmers.

This offer was withdrawn when the State passed a law which gave the State power to force landholders to forgo their right to develop their freehold land to make it productive.

What makes this withdrawal of funds more unfair is the fact that the Fed. Gov. were happy to use the tree clearing to assist in meeting the Kyoto protocol.

At no time did the State or Federal Gov. point out to the Australian public that the tree clearing laws cost landholders millions of dollars at no cost to the Taxpayer. In my case alone I estimate about \$55,000 in land value + I continue to pay rates ect, + t.

(2)

What makes these laws even more unfair is the fact that they penalize landholders who left timber on their land. People that have cleared & cultivated their country can now sell at top price, while in my case all I have is a paddock covered with useless timber & scrub which in effect has been taken over by the State without one dollar in compensation.

I would like to know where my land rights have gone, in my opinion they have gone the same way as in Zimbabwe.

Your sincerely

Please excuse this scribble, I am out
lunch, away from home at present. (3)

(A)