

SENATE ENQUIRY - SUBMISSION AGAINST NATIVE VEGETATION LAWS 11.03.2010

Senator

As food producers we are FED UP with being pawns in the game of politics. Governments have tried to win political points from green groups and world climate change protocols by the introduction of laws eroding our rights to manage regrowth on our FREEHOLD properties or bring new land into production. At the same time telling us to increase production to cater for the impending increase in world population and future food shortages.

Our returns on our produce have not improved at all for 30 years, yet our costs have risen fourfold. Our ability to maintain current production levels has been halted by these unfair laws.

The disrespect shown to Australians in the agricultural sector is beyond belief. We are referred to as stakeholders not food producers and freehold land owners.

We find it insulting to hear politicians praising themselves for so called massive gains in carbon sequestration and big wins for the environment all at no cost to the government or the rest of the population but at massive cost to us.

Droughts, floods, fire, pests and weeds are all stressful and part of life in agriculture. When ridiculous laws passed by Government without proper consultation substantially affect our ability to conduct a viable business and erode the value of our Freehold land it is intolerable. This must change. Australian's in agriculture request that all concerns be acknowledged and commonsense prevail for the good of this country.

Yours sincerely, D ROBERTSON