

SUBMISSION.

THE SENATE.

FINANCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

REFERENCES COMMITTEE.

P.O. BOX 6100 PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

CANBERRA A.C.T. 2000.

NATIVE VEGETATION LAWS GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I AND MY FAMILY BEFORE ME HAVE OWNED WORKED AND MANAGED SOME PARTS OF OUR PROPERTY FOR UP TO 140 YEARS. DURING THIS TIME THEY HAVE SHOWN A PREDILECTION FOR RETAINING A REASONABLE NUMBER OF TREES IN APPROPRIATE AREAS, AN EXAMPLE WHICH I HAVE FOLLOWED. BECAUSE OF THIS TRAIT I NOW HAVE AN ISSUE WITH THE QUEENSLAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACT. I REITERATE THAT THE POLICY OF PRESERVING SOME LIGHT TO MEDIUM TREE COVERAGE IS A CONSCIOUS DECISION AND NOT A HAPHAZARD EVENT.

HOWEVER THE PROPONENTS AND INSTIGATORS OF QUEENSLANDS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACT ARE NOT CONTENT WITH THIS PROCEDURE, BUT REQUIRE SOMETHING APPROACHING AN OVERGROWN THICKET. THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THIS ACT HAVE COMMANDEERED A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF OUR PROPERTY UNDER SEVERAL MANAGEMENT ACT CLASSIFICATIONS WHILE WE HAVE SUFFERED THIS FATE FOR BEING RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO ENACT THIS AFORESAID POLICY, THOSE LANDHOLDERS WHO CHOSE TO KEEP THEIR PROPERTY MORE CLEAR OF TREES ESCAPE SCOT FREE. WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN THIS? WHAT MESSAGE IS THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED TRYING TO CONVEY? AND IS THERE A MORAL TO THE STORY?. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AS I MUST HAVE MISSED SOMETHING.

AS A RESULT OF CLEARING RESTRICTIONS BEING IMPOSED, THE LAND AFFECTED IS BECOMING LESS PRODUCTIVE AS THE TREE COVER, PARTICULARLY OF UNDERSTORY SPECIES, THICKENS.

I WISH TO MAKE THE OBSERVATION THAT, EVEN AS PRODUCTION DECREASES, WE STILL HAVE AN OBLIGATION, EITHER LEGAL AND/OR AS A RESPONSIBLE LANDHOLDER TO; FOR INSTANCE :-

PAY LOCAL AUTHORITY RATES.

ATTEND TO WEED INVASION INCLUDING DECLARED WEEDS,
PROVIDE BOUNDARY FENCING.

ATTEND TO SAFETY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING FIRE CONTROL AND PROBABLY PUBLIC LIABILITY INS.

THESE COSTS AND OBLIGATIONS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM NEGLIGIBLE PRODUCTION AND THEREFORE EVEN MORE NEGLIGIBLE INCOME.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDE :-
THE DIFFICULTY IN MANAGING STOCK IN THIS OVERGROWN ENVIRONMENT.

THE PERCEPTION BY THE AVERAGE CITIZEN THAT THIS IS AN "ABANDONED FARM" WHICH DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH ME.

YOURS SINCERELY.