

03 March 2010

Mr Robert Miller

Dear Sir/Madam

The Native Vegetation Act has ruined the livelihood of farmers across Australia. The next generation of farmers can see how their income has been greatly reduced due to this act. Productive grassland is being overtaken by scrub. Timbered country is no longer able to be cleared and now these farmers are turning their back on the farming industry. Farmers are too scared to criticise the native vegetation act for fear of being targeted by over zealous inspectors.

On our farm of 5000 acres we have 500 acres of timber. Without continual clearing of dead timber and regrowth this country will become useless and just a fire hazard.

Remember the Victorian bushfires.

I have trees on my property ideally suited for post ripping events at our local agriculture show but am not game to allow them to be used for fear of being fined large amounts of money for my generosity.

Land clearing operators are too frightened to continue their line of work due to the huge fines being handed out to them. Last year I had fence lines cleared. The dozer operator would only do one blade length on either side of the fence. This was totally inadequate as the taller trees will still eventually fall over the fence doing great damage to the fence. The dozer operator was not game to go any wider for fears of being fined.

This act must be overturned so farmers and dozer operators no longer live in fear of breaking stupid rules just for the sake of pleasing a few non working greenies.

We have lost the title of our own land – that is the land that we have paid for and we should have the right to do with it as we please to make our farming land more productive. Our land has now become restricted freehold . Imagine if this was done in other countries.

Yours faithfully

Robert Miller