

Dear Servant,

I would like to advise you of our dislike for things that are happening in our country which are affecting our way of life as farmers.

S.E.P. 46. Native Vegetation Act and the under handed way John Howard and his government did with the help of the states stealing farmers carbon credits without just compensation, was the lowest act which could be done to hard working farmers.

The wrongs have to be put right as soon as possible by you.

You say you are for working families but does this mean farming families too. As we see this at the moment you and your government need to work out whether you need farmers in the country or not because if you don't there will not be any farmers left if you go ahead with this act.. There are no sections of the farming community that are not under stress at the moment with poor prices and high input costs driving them out.

Some points to consider:

We are land owners, not land holders - that undermines our ownership of our freehold - fee simple land rights.

The fear factor - there is always a punishment - you must self regulate, but if you do it wrong you will be prosecuted. Impact on our earning capacity - prices are down - can't expand production - can't develop land - limits our earnings - less productive - maintenance only.

Time factor - when the approvals are given they often have a time factor which does not take into consideration the weather or finances.

Family rifts and stress - the restrictions and regulations on farming can cause problems in families and can lead to arguments, fights, abuse or suicide.

The maps the department use are inaccurate - lantana is often shown as old growth.

Steep protected land is measured from creek bank to ridge line, not taking into account any shelves or plateaus.

The government changes the rules and each time they take more off us and put more restrictions on - changing the goal posts.

No respect for farmers from any level of government.

Living solely off the land is difficult - off farm income is needed - they say we are not viable then and should not be on the land - the restrictions they put on us are causing the problem.

Remember, we bought the land - we own the land - we work the land.

By locking up large areas of native vegetation you are creating environment disaster, e.g. destructive bushfires like the fires we have had in Victoria which claimed 100's of lives.

Your Agriculture minister is a disgrace to the portfolio and needs to be replaced, as he does not have a clue of power to run it.

It is my will to you to take immediate action to change this act ,so as to protect our environment and farmers. Give just compensation and to return our property rights back to the people.

Yours faithfully,