

Dear Committee members,

It seems an inordinate amount of climate change measures require draconian laws covering the clearing of native vegetation. The zero clearing permitted has ruined the livelihood of many farmers, most of whom did not wish to clear vast tracts of land anyway and certainly not on the scale done by local councils for roads, utilities etc and housing development. People who pay rates on agricultural land do not find their rates are lowered because they can no longer farm effectively----they must pay the same as before or sometimes more. Their farms of course can't be sold for agricultural purposes although that is the only zoning the land is registered as.

In rural areas on the outskirts of cities, since the introduction of the native vegetation act, Real Estate people advertise that land already cleared is more desirable because the owners of such land can use it for any legitimate purpose, whereas if previous owners of similar sized blocks have kept their trees, the act prevents new buyers from clearing even quite small areas, eg for horse-riding arenas, stables. These blocks, previously desirable have become less valuable often than the original purchase price and once the potential buyer hears how little is able to be done on the block, they quickly lose interest in buying it.

While wanting to maintain a meaningful amount of trees to help prevent climate change is admirable, the impact on some people's lives has been drastic, and there has been no or little compensation offered. At the same time we seem to be enlarging ports, building railway lines etc to make it easier to export more polluting coal, driving even more cars per head than usual, encouraging more and more enormous cruise ships and in the luxury lifestyle mode, living as if there were no tomorrow. It seems it doesn't matter how much you pollute, as long as you don't personally cut down a tree.

Do you think science could measure what other ways there are to prevent drastic climate change besides the 100% forbidding of tree clearance, which is borne by only a very small section of the citizens of Australia?

Sincerely,

Judith Wand