

Trees I once loved I now loath

I'm a farmer at . I've been a farmer since 1967. I have left trees on my property to be used for forestry and fencing requirements. I've left some 120 acres to my trees. Now I find them as liability as most of the surrounding farms have been cleared my trees are now seen as a public asset and no longer can harvest them for the purposes I intended and in deed left them for.

To remove trees I must get permission from Council and the Southern Rivers Catchment Committee, yes even trees on the ground for fire wood. I can't ever replace flood damaged fences without permission to cut trees. Not even cut trees up that are in my creek.

My local Council now has placed tree preservation orders on all trees in the Eurobodalla Shire. I can't even cut down a tree for fencing without a Development Application (DA). The DA process stems from Commonwealth Legislation I'm told.

My farm has been zoned for 20 years for rural small holdings. The zoning was in place years before the various tree preservation orders were in place. The tree preservation now has cost me millions because I now can't subdivide as my neighbours (without trees) have done. They were smart they removed the trees years ago.

My trees are now called wild life corridor.

I should be compensated for the cost of non productive tree areas that cost me lost income.

The only rights I have in regard my trees is I must pay rates on land I can't use or make money from. The only thing I must do on this land is remove noxious weeds and feral animals. How can I increase my income along with my costs like rates.

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