

Re: Native Vegetation Laws Submission

The impact of the Native Vegetation Laws, have been disastrous.

When drought or another disaster strikes us, the following few years are needed to recoup and recover from that loss. This becomes even more challenging because the Government's Native Vegetation Laws, have reduced our ability to make a decent return off our country. The Government "sold" our trees & native vegetation, with out our permission, to cover the nations carbon credits and Green Agenda. NO compensation has been offered to us, and our freedom of choice has been eroded.

The value of farming land in this area is around \$1200/ acre, with the value of timbered country being around \$600/ acre. As our debt level rises, the banks want more security. The value of our timbered country is not going up at the same rate as farming land, because the freedom of choice & possible development has been stripped by your laws. Thus virtually overnight the value of our asset has dropped considerably.

In the last forty years we have been very careful in developing country. We chose to have a balance of developed land & native vegetation. We chose to do what we felt was right for the land, the environment and the future generations to come. The "reward" for us choosing this environmental balance, with our careful management, has been the loss of our 'freedom' of choice in utilising our "100% freehold" land and the reduced value. Of course one can apply to develop country, but there is so much red tape and conditions to meet, that it has become a waste of time & effort to even apply.

The solution is simple. If the Government, and the people of Australia and in turn the world, want to meet the targets of the Kyoto Agreement through the use of tying up our trees, vegetation and land, then they should pay us, the landholder for that use, at a fair yearly price. If the price is not agreeable to both sides, then the land owner should have his choices reinstated, so we can carry on working the land as we see fit.

Yours Faithfully,

Geoff & Lynn Hunter