

Submission to Inquiry of Native vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement & Climate Change Measures

To: Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee

From: Craig Cox

Background

My wife and I are fifth generation farmers. We have two children who attend the
Our passion is farming and I know we are lucky enough to have some of the best farming land in Australia.

Submission

Although we have some of the best farming land known, we also have some native vegetation right in the middle of our paddocks, which takes up this inherently fertile ground. These patches only harbour pests.

The vegetation interferes with how my crops grow and produce. It's a breeding ground for feral pigs and kangaroo's, a great place for cockatoos to roost and also for noxious weeds to grow. The pigs and kangaroo's destroy the crops by rummaging through the crop and knocking it over, the above animals also find the grain very appetising. The weeds are hard to control because the vegetation is so thick you can't get a vehicle in there to spray.

Meanwhile I'm still to pay them same amount of rates for this useless ground as I pay for my productive land.

When farmers are told that there is going to be restrictions on vegetation clearing, I guess they are a little bit like children being told that this is the last time they can have lollies, they feel the need to make up for what they are going to miss out on in the future. By putting restrictions on clearing native vegetation, I believe property owners have cleared vegetation that most likely they would have never cleared.

Although I am passionate about my job, I'm not running a charity and I have a farm to run and a family to maintain. This native vegetation only costs, I get nothing in return from it, except heartache.

Summary

We need to be able to make responsible decision for our land ourselves.

We need to get the Carbon Credits happening so we are compensated for this useless ground.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission

Craig Cox