

Submission to Senate Inquiry into Native Vegetation Laws and other matters.

To Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Mrs Carol Petith

1 March 2010

Preamble to my submission

The terms of Reference do not take into consideration all aspects of the impact on landowners caused by the implementation of the Native Vegetation Act and the Threatened Species Act and many other similar acts.

The time allowed for submissions was pathetic and an extension should be given to enable those who do not know about this inquiry to participate. Where was this inquiry advertised ?

I do not accept the Native Vegetation Act or the Threatened Species Act. I put the government on notice that I consider that these Acts are not for the benefit of the community and in fact suppress landowners by imposition of huge fines for non-compliance.

I believe the implementation of the Native Vegetation Act and Threatened Species Act has led to many landowners taking their lives as a result I believe of feeling disenfranchised from their property. Families have been distressed and have not been financially or legally able to defend themselves against this legislation. So these Acts of legislation do not deliver a benefit but rather the opposite.

Farming has been compromised and this does not achieve a benefit to anyone.

Impact

My right to own private property without government claiming a restriction has been taken away from me.

Restriction as to use of my land – 80% restriction on use of my land.
Council have site coverage restrictions as a follow up from this legislation.

Devaluation of my property by these restrictions. (Any restriction causes devaluation)
This would have an effect on borrowing capacity if I make application for a loan.

No Compensation has been legislated by State Government to pay for the lock up of the trees on my land.
Federal Government has gained a benefit from the lock up of the trees on my property and
I consider State Government responsible as they have colluded with Federal Government to implement this legislation.

I cannot clear land that I consider would prevent bushfires on my property.
This results in stress every summer. Bushfire legislation is too strict and puts Native Vegetation Act & Threatened Species Act as a first consideration.

Native Vegetation and Threatened Species reports are required by Councils when Development Applications are made costing thousands of dollars and payable up front to professionals for these reports, regardless of whether a Dev. Application is successful or rejected.
State Government should be paying for these reports if they require them to be made.
State Planning directions issued to Councils require implementation of the legislation in Local Environment Plans.

Public Funds spent on implementation and staff to monitor and to enforce this legislation. Funds that could be directed to other necessary infrastructure such as roads or hospitals.

I want this inquiry to act to:-

- 1. Remove Native Vegetation Act and Threatened Species Act where it has been legislated over private property.***
- 2. Place Just Terms Compensation into the State Law to compensate those landowners who have been affected by the Native Vegetation Act and the Threatened Species Act.***
- 3. To place into State law a requirement that any legislation that imposes a restriction over private property has to be compensated for under Just Terms Compensation.***

End of Submission