

HEATHER BRITTEN
[REDACTED]
GUNGALOON, Q 4620



RESEARCH DIRECTOR.
Agricultural & Environmental Commission,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
BRISBANE, Q 4000.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have recently become the legal owner of 180 acres at Gungaloon, Q 4620, [REDACTED] which I wanted to lock in on the PMAV. I have had legal use since May 2015 but finalised the sale on 8-4-16. I enquired on 8-3-16 re locking in the block and was issued with a current Veg map. I then spoke to a Land Officer [REDACTED] (Gympie) on the 10-3-16 and was issued with a PMAV Application Form. Well, the form isn't exactly self explanatory so I went to see the staff at the Lands office in Maryborough. As they were unable to help, I had a subsequent phone interview with [REDACTED] (Bundaberg) on 13-4-16 to get help in filling out the form. This is when I found out that my "current" Veg Map had changed on 17-3-16, without viewing & without consultation. I was told that I cannot back date the application to when I started the process & I think this is extremely unfair. I was not told at that time that this change was in the wind or I would have taken action much quicker.

The block of land has some tall timber (which I wouldn't touch) but is also covered in wattle & gum suckers. I was told by the previous owner that the whole block had been cleared some 15 years ago, so none of this timber is remnant vegetation. If I am unable to control the re-growth, the land becomes unviable & useless.

We are still required by Local Govt law to keep weeds & invasive species of grass (such as Lantana, Giant Rats Tail Grass) under control, but it is very difficult if we have heaps of suckers & undergrowth to crawl through to find these pests.

I am objecting strongly to all the new orange colour on the new Veg Map as it is certainly not Category C, area containing of concern regional ecosystem. It is BLACK WATTLE!! I was happy with the previous map which safe guarded the tall trees which are growing on rocky knolls. We had intended making a wildlife corridor from one area to the next anyway. If you look at the old map, you will note that my neighbours on 3 sides have their country locked in "white".

I would like to know the process by which you decide what is ecosystem of concern? Changing the colour on the map doesn't turn the wattle into valuable timber. You can't just look at a map and make a judgement! Are we going to be able to have this inspected by an experienced Land Officer who know about trees & vegetation & the value of controlling invasive & exotic species with a view to have this judgement reversed if this proposal goes through?

My telephone number is [REDACTED] and as I have no Internet connection at present, will have to be contacted either by phone or mail. I am strongly objecting that I cannot backdate this application to when the process started and the fact that you think you can change things without consulting with the people concerned.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Heather Britten.

