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VM INQUIRY SUBMISSION

Well we may say God Save the Queen, but nothing will save the Labour Party if they go ahead with their current agenda to reinstate the Veg Laws of the Beattie government. The LNP are bathing in glory at the current stupidity of Labour on this. Why would any government destroy agriculture with draconian laws, but still pledge to endorse the largest coal mine in the world and support CSG mining that could in the long run destroy our most valuable assets being the Great Artesian Basin and prime agricultural land? Our State would be well served if our Government supported agriculture in the same way it does mining.

In many cases these poorly developed conservation policies result in total destruction of biodiversity ending in catastrophic losses such as wild fires in poorly managed National Parks. In western Queensland we now have forests where prior to European settlement there was open Grasslands. It is well documented and accepted that forests decrease runoff during soaking wet season rainfall events, causing a substantial reduction in natural flows throughout the Murray Darling System.

Given these facts, in the interests of conservation shouldn't the government's policies be encouraging the restoration and maintenance of these extremely valuable grasslands. Such policies would provide substantial economic growth in addition to desired conservation outcomes.

Further theft of private property and property rights will destroy the viability and sustainability of many more family farms, potentially leading to further foreign ownership and destruction of rural communities. If the proposed legislative amendments are "good policy", will the voting public be prepared to fund the necessary and appropriate compensation. Any amendment to existing legislation that effectively removes Property Rights must engage the appropriate provisions of fair compensation.

If the Greens feel so passionate about conservation, perhaps they should surrender their wages to purchase and lock-up vast tracts of agricultural land. Then they could put their time and money into managing these areas. Moreover, with the "onus of proof" reversed, if a fire or storm should damage the vegetation or their native animals overgraze and degrade these areas our Courts could fine, jail or bankrupt these Green Idealists.

There is no good reason - scientific or otherwise to support the proposed amendments. Clearly they are no more than a political stunt, pandering to the ill-informed minority. Given our economic circumstances, on reflection voters will punish the Labour Party for this gross injustice toward our primary producers and the broader economy.

Yours faithfully

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