

To the Senate Committee

27th April, 2016

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Re: - Submission on Native Vegetation Laws

Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Our small farming property of 117 acres has at least 80% of its area under your proposed Native Vegetation Law. As a result this land cannot be cleared for cattle farming in anyway or for any reason in the future. As there are properties in the area with no vegetation the result of this law is that our farm land assets and productivity has been considerably reduced. Whereas the debate of having trees on your land is a separate issue, we believe that agriculture owners of Native Vegetation areas that will be frozen by this law and cannot be cleared should be compensated in some way.

Where land could have been cleared for a variable agriculture venture but will be now protected under your Native Vegetation Law we believe that the compensation should be given on a yearly basis. This compensation could be paid in a monetary way or in the form of a monetary relief of some kind.

When this land is sold the compensation packet as previously explained above goes with the sale of the property. This would bring into line the asset value of properties like ours with other properties of similar land and production which we fully cleared previously to the implementation of the new Native Vegetation Laws.

The Native Vegetation on our property and as on many other properties is not suitable for any other type of agriculture/horticulture production as it is timbered and has no pasture value at all at present. We also feel because we cannot and could not afford to clear it, we have been dealt a cruel hand. The density of the native vegetation does not allow for pastures to grow.

My husband and I are both horticulturist and look after the land by producing millions of new plants every year. We are very passionate about our small block of land and am hoping to retire out there in the near future and be fully self-sufficient, but these laws will truly ruin our future plans and by doing this we would have wasted all the money we have been paying to the Commonwealth Bank paying this block off. It will be worthless but still costs us every year in rates, interest on the loan etc etc. We are both greenies, as a lot of people call us but there needs to be a balance and we feel you are not doing this by blanketing our piece of land. We keep our block clear of weeds and chemical free. Yet we are being punished. I invite you to visit our block and see if you would keep paying the repayments if you cannot do anything with it under your new laws.

Our land has a small creek running through it which has not been running now for over 4 years, it has cost us every year to feed out small herd of cattle. We were hoping to clear more of the trees on our land so our dozen head of cattle can graze more but these laws will cost us more and our block will be worthless. Is the government going to give us compensation or buy our land? Because we both work and are not primary producers we cannot even claim any drought funding to help us pay for feed for our cows.

I feel like the State Government Labour or Liberal/National is ruining our lives and trying to send us broke after we have both worked and paid taxes for over 37 years, we have never been on unemployment benefits yet by trying to better ourselves and leave something for children we have actually been wasting our time, our money, our sweat, tears and blood.

We are surrounded by National Park with millions of trees on hundreds of acres and our land is situated over 50kms away from the nearest river. Yet there are hundreds of acres of sugar cane growing on river banks all over Queensland. They spray chemicals, the top soil erodes into the rivers and yet because they are fully irrigated horticultural farm they are exempt from these new laws that you want to bring in for Queensland.

Your party and the other parties have allowed mines to decimate our land here in Queensland for many years, do you not know how much damage this has caused and added to climate change. Visit Queensland's Condamine River system and see for yourself the bubbles of gas rising to the top, caused by fracking less than two kilometres away. Yet we and all of Queensland farmers are going to pay for this damage by income losses caused by your bill. Farmers have been on the land for longer than you and I have been alive and they are still able to make a living from it. They have protected their investment, not over cleared it, not worked it into the ground but protected it. This bill will take that away from farmers and small property owners. It will destroy them, their income and their homes.

A lot of people get up and say "Save the environment" but the Native Vegetation Laws will affect our asset. People who do not own agriculture land should play their part too by paying compensation through their taxes and government. We have more trees on our property than there are in any suburb of Brisbane. As the Native Vegetation Laws stand the property owner is the only person paying for the loss of production and the loss in the asset value of the land he owns. We as land owners of Native Vegetation Land and taxpayers have to pay for the up keep and purchase of land for National Parks and the like so why can't all taxpayers help pay for Native Vegetation Land.

Thank you for this opportunity to send this submission to your Committee.

Rob & Julie Moore

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