

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT LAWS

[REDACTED]

Our property at [REDACTED] property containing a mixture of pastoral land and grazing land. We purchased our property over 2 ½ years ago. We are in the process of establishing a vineyard, with the balance of the property being used for cattle grazing. Depending on the success of the vineyard, we intend to expand the vineyard to approximately 2ha. Most of our property is already in a regrowth situation as we are encouraging a strong and healthy stand of ironbark trees as we believe this is essential for vineyard health, and also to balance sun and shade on our type of grazing land. We also encourage blue gums in the mix for a balanced ecosystem and to encourage koala habitation.

We are opposed to the new Regulated Vegetation Management Map over our property. We take pride in our trees and the overall composition of our land. We would not do anything to adversely affect our property or the environment, but we reserve the right to be able to maintain and expand our cultivation and cattle enterprise.

We are also in a high fire danger area and as a volunteer of the local Rural Fire Brigade, I am aware of the importance of maintaining a balanced approach toward fire hazard control including reducing fuel loads by slashing, weed control and hazard reduction burns. To stop weed control and hazard reduction burns would be highly irresponsible, and a disregard to the health and safety of the people who actually live here.

Our property also has an overlay for Regulated Vegetation Management Category B (Remnant Vegetation) over approximately 2ha. This area also includes Essential habitat on the essential habitat map. There are already significant blue gums that are essential to Koala habitat on our property but these trees are heavily infested with mistletoe weeds. These trees are not healthy and will eventually die as others have in the area. If the government is really concerned with koala habitat, then a weed eradication program to protect the existing blue gums from a slow death would ensure that the koala population maintains their food source. Perhaps a bounty on a mistletoe crown would encourage landowners to help remove this weed.
(Please see attached photos of infested trees.)

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





