

21 March 2018

Dear Premier,

I am writing to ask you to seriously reconsider the input of the new 'Laws' being enforced by your government on 'Vegetation Laws'.

Myself, wife and neighbouring properties within the area have great concern and your government need to be aware of the circumstances these laws will take in the rural and urban areas. Can you not understand the devastation this is going to cause farmers trying to make a living to the small towns out here in the outback. This will also have an impact on cities. When there is no food being supplied, let everyone go hungry and increase the dole funding. Landholders will just walk out and then YOU as the government can support us instead of the other way round.

How are we as Primary Producers able to provide Australians (including yourself) and millions of other people in the world if we cannot 'improve' or 'utilize' our land to its full potential? Might I also add that the land you have taken from me is 'Freehold Land' which I own and purchased.

Before this 'Law' was proposed and enforced I had a 'Thinning Permit' to clean up some regrowth which was a wall of Pine. This permit has already been stopped and I can no longer finish the thinning that I could have completed. This area is situated around a watering point for stock and the purpose to eradicate the Pine was to ensure my safety as well as my family and contractor workers while mustering cattle. Aren't trees constantly removed in new suburban areas due to 'Public Risk'??

As a Land Owner I have 4 Titles covering approximately 3570 hectares which 2398 hectares (67%) of freehold land has been taken off me. On the current advice I have this will equate to \$48000 plus for permits to manage a massive regrowth problem on Freehold Land since the original clearing legislation and has dismissed my rights to improve my land. I had plans of clearing a 200 acre area that has been overrun with regrowth to plough in Oats/Sorgum to help feed stock. That has also now been taken away.

All of my Mulga Country has also been taken away from me to utilize during drought. This equates to a considerable percentage of land. I look after this area and selectively use it when necessary. How am I now to feed my starving stock in the next drought? Is the government going to subsidise and support landholders during drought to feed livestock? Why can we not use a natural resource to feed and keep our stock alive during a crisis time? I thought the government wanted landholders/farmers 'to be drought proof? Please do advise how we do this?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

We work hard to achieve what we have and to grow produce whether it being livestock or crops to help feed Australia. The government is just making harder and harder everyday for us to do OUR job. We have 2 little boys that we hope one day they we take over our property as primary producers, now they will be left with a place full of trees. How about instead of going against us, maybe actually work with us and **support** us. This is Australia, lets work together not against.

I look forward from a response and the new Laws being rejected out the door.

Thank you

John and Mel Bodkin

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]