

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO NATIVE VEGETATION LAWS AND OTHER MATTERS.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
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CANBERRA ACT 2600

FROM Belinda and Michael Petith

Native Vegetation Act and Threatened Species Act

Both of these acts have not considered the impact on private landowners.

The right to own freehold land without NVA and TSA restrictions imposed by State Government. This NVA and TSA legislation has been used to lock up private property under the guise of environmentalism.

This is wrong and it should be recognised that these types of restrictions are being carried out against the will of private landowners. Government have used power for their own gain against its own people.

Millions of hectares of land have been locked up under the NVA and TSA without consideration of the impact on landowners who purchased their properties in good faith without these restrictions.

NVA and TSA restrictions have resulted in a government benefit. Benefit has been for the government both State and Federal. (eg:- Federal gain of carbon lockup to meet Kyoto Protocol target ; State gain of funding handed down from the Federal Government to NSW State Government to implement the NVA and TSA restrictions).

The Native Vegetation Act and Threatened Species Act restrictions have caused devaluation of properties. The effect results in landowners being subject to possibility of loans being recalled.

The NVA and TSA have caused lock up of private property without Just Terms Compensation.

The NVA and TSA have caused economic distortion of the market. Wealth has been locked up. Home prices have escalated by the lack of land available in many instances. Local Environment Plans are dominated by these Acts creating wastage of finance that could be put to wiser use.

Native Vegetation and Threatened Species Acts applied to local environment plans add thousands of dollars to all development applications where reports and studies are demanded as part of the DA process.

The right to own private land without threat of fines for non compliance of Vegetation Acts has been taken away. Families are breaking down as a result of the stress and death has resulted in many families. I believe there have been approx 500 suicides of farmers.

Vegetation and Threatened Species Laws have changed the meaning of private land ownership. The meaning of private land ownership has been manipulated with this legislation by those who seek to separate the land from the title. No one would purchase a paper title if the land was not able to be used. This is a magician's trick and has no substance.

The inquiry should seek to right the wrongs that have been carried out by the implementation of these Acts and should revoke them. A bill should be put to State Parliament to revoke these Acts and should state that Compensation on Just Terms be paid where environmental restrictions are made over private property.

This will safeguard the locking up of private land without a just cause and without payment. No more restrictions on private land should be permitted under the current system of legislating Acts that virtually take the land but leave the landowner with a useless title. This is Government THEFT.

Dated 2nd March 2010.