

Fax 0262775809 3/3/10

FAXED
3/3/10

The Secretary,
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee,
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to air my concerns the native Vegetation Act is having on my farming & grazing enterprise which has been in operation by myself & forebears since the mid 1800s. Approximately two years ago I partially cleared some country which was deemed by the DECCW to be not allowed. This area was quite open some years before the restrictions were placed on land by the Carr Government in the 1990ies.

I now am faced with an area of some seventy hectares which I am compelled to let re-vegetate for environmental benefits. It would seem I'm irresponsible not-with- standing prior to this land lock-up we spent some \$15,000 repairing damage close to the Macintyre River by a previous neighbours actions which was under the directions (help) by the then Soil Conservation Service with whom we were in close & helpful

②

consultation with. This along with contour banks etc. was under their direction. Now the Soil Conservation Service seems defunct only to be replaced with these 'stand-over' tactics employed by the DECCW.

We have a further area of around 1,000 hectares of similar country which no doubt would fall into the restricted category, hence a devaluation of our property along with a loss of income. If this is of such importance to the wider community surely compensation should be forthcoming.

If this loss of property rights continues in its present vein surely our fathers & grandfathers actions in the 1st & 2nd world wars has all been in vain. Therefore I appeal to some commonsense & decency to come out of Canberra by our politicians and restore some faith to ordinary Australians for their purpose in life.

To draw a comparison with a farmer or landowner with for arguments sake an academic, I would pose this question - Would an academic like to ~~have~~ have his ability to use his knowledge restricted to a reduced degree the same way a landowner has restrictions placed on his ability to use his asset - in some cases by up to 90% - no doubt the academic would be reduced to a kindergarten ^{level of} ~~converse~~ conversation!

(3)

What a hue & cry would be forthcoming from this section of the community were this to occur just as it would if the government were to use their powers of no compensation on individuals who own a house on land throughout the cities as they impose upon farmers. Of course they are to 'cunning' to upset the masses - it tends to relegate the farmers to a different class of citizen, no doubt, ^{due} to the lack of importance vote wise.

yours sincerely

BEN HOLMES