

*R Bruce Ralston*

Native Vegetation Laws  
Greenhouse Gas Abatement and  
Climate Change Measures

My understanding of land ownership in fee simple is that it includes the land and everything which is attached to it.

Obviously all vegetation growing from the land is included in this ownership.

The pre 1990 vegetation and its Carbon Storage been taken for the public good without compensation and has devalued my property.

The State Native Vegetation legislation enabled the then Commonwealth government to boast that it had met its Kyoto requirements. The current government on signing Kyoto agreement utilized the stolen vegetation and carbon storage to balance its carbon budget.

The regional areas obviously have very little political clout; this stealing of land holder's carbon appears to be the only serious attempt to balance our carbon budget. Industry, energy and transport are to increase their carbon out put by 25% between 1990 and 2012. Government policies trying to improve energy use are ill-conceived, expensive (using Public (our) money) and of little real benefit. Have a look at home insulation, government at its best!

The divisive way in which Native Vegetation legislation was introduced without compensation greatly weakens the strength of land ownership. The economy of our country is largely based on the strength of the Land Administration System. How much of the confidence of lending bodies has been undermined by this legislation?

The process used in part of NSW Native Vegetation legislation goes against common law, the situation arises where:

- An anonymous person reports some activity, this may just be verbal, it may be vindictive and without any supporting information and the reporting person does not even have to identify them selves, and secondly
- The land holder is assumed guilty on the report of this person and has to prove their innocence.

So much for centuries of the development of justice and law.

Governments of all persuasion create more and more legislation, regulations and policies which affect the efficiency of farming. The irony being that they are often reversing the policies and legislation of a few decades ago.

Do Governments want farmers and farming? Or are we endangered species where more and more food and fiber are to be imported. Ironically from developed countries where farmers are appreciated, often heavily subsidized. Or from countries where there are little or no rules or regulation over the environment, occupation health and safety, employment conditions, or the safety of products.

Don't worry "I'm from the government and I'm here to help"

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