

Submission to Inquiry into Naive Vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Measures.

To: Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

From: Nigel Cox

BACKGROUND:

My partner and myself farm a small portion of land on the Haystack Plain on the Darling Downs. I am a fifth generation farmer and also have Trade Certificates in Fitting and Turning and Boiler Making, as well as a being a certified Pressure Welder. I have lived on the farm all my life with 15 years of experience in grain growing.

SUBMISSION:

We have been lucky enough to farm some of the most productive grain growing farmland in Australia, on the Haystack Plain. Without the clearing of this country it becomes far less productive. The Brigalow scrub country often grows much too dense for other vegetation to grow, dooming it useless for grazing cattle on in a lot of places. This however hasn't stopped the implementation of Native Vegetation Laws stopping the land holder from clearing his land. The portions of Native Scrub left is not only unproductive, but provides perfect harbour for farm animals to live and breed at the expense of our own native animals. Native animals that withstand this onslaught such as the Kangaroo as they often breed in greater numbers, and by having crops to supply them at the expense of the landholder. The uncleared portions of land also provides a habitat for noxious weeds to grow abundantly and out of control. Landholders rights are diminishing rapidly. They now find themselves left, in some cases, with unproductive land, decreasing the value of their property all the while still paying rates and not being compensated for their now useless portions of land. Native scrubland now protected by Native Vegetation Laws can not even be used for carbon credits if this was to happen.