

**SUBMISSION FOR:
NATIVE VEGETATION LAWS, GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE MEASURES**

**IN QUEENSLAND, THEY CALL IT THE VEGETATION MANGEMENT ACT – IT
SHOULD BE RENAMED TRUTHFULLY TO WHAT IT REALLY IS: THEFT BY
LEGISLATION**

We are small-crop farmers, owning and living on a property of 29 hectares of which the Native Vegetation Laws has taken away the use 10 hectares. Some of these 10 hectares consists of red volcanic soil, which we have found to be the most productive for our type of farming.

We believe this Law has devalued our land as these 10 hectares cannot be used as farmland anymore and therefore has no value to us now.

We were not paid any compensation whatsoever and furthermore we had to pay to get maps to see where the green areas were on our property. More expense for us. People should be paid fairly and honestly for all trees taken since the beginning of this law, for example when the law began in Queensland in 1999.

Since the Law has been brought in, it has been hard on us mentally, we cannot understand how you pay the State Government for the rights to do what you want with the trees and then they just take them back from us and pay no compensation and then have to hide to say to us it is “Our Duty of Care to the Environment”. Surely the State Government must have a “Duty of Care” to the landholders affected as they sold them the rights in the first place.

There is a number of pests that live and breed in the protected areas such as silver-leaf white fly which can devastate some crops. This fly has been reported as living and breeding in lemon-scented gum, which is growing in protected areas. (Information came from the D.P.I.).

Animals such as possums, bandicoots, wallabies and native birds cause a lot of damage to the crops close to the protected areas as these areas are their natural habitat. This makes it near impossible to grow crops close to these protected areas without fencing and extra spraying (white fly). All this comes at an extra cost which we are unable to recoup because of the way the pricing is set out for small crops.

In the growing of small crops, fungi and wilts make a big difference to a successful crop. With no fungi or wilts in a crop of tomatoes you can achieve as much as 12kg per bush but with these diseases in the crop you can yield nothing. This makes it important to be able to move into new areas that are not infected with diseases such as Fusarium wilt, Verticillium wilt and Bacterial Canker. These diseases stay in the soil for many years and will keep occurring in the crops if you plant in the same place all the time. It is best to spell this area for a number of years to allow the soil to recover.

Therefore this protected area has caused hardship for us because we cannot move our crops to disease free soils. All diseases and pests build-up if you keep on using the same areas over and over and all soils need resting.