

SUBMISSION

5th. March 2010

Senate Finance And Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Native Vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Measures.

Dear Senators,

I own a property in north east NSW. Before the native vegetation laws were introduced I had total ownership and control of all the native vegetation on my property. I was able to clear and improve the pasture for cattle grazing or cropping, or I could retain the native vegetation for future timber harvesting, or the pleasure of maintaining diversification on the property. The point is that it was my property, my decision as to how I managed it for my income then and future.

The native vegetation laws have taken that right from me and made it illegal to clear or damage that native vegetation and taken the right to profit from the land occupied by that vegetation except for very restricted timber harvesting.

We now discover that the Gov. has claimed billions of dollars in carbon credits by stopping the clearing of land. I believe that that credit belongs to the land and the manager who in his wisdom did not clear the land years ago. This value has been stolen from me.

If I had cleared that land I would now be able to plant a forest plantation and claim carbon credits for doing so as well as the right to harvest or re-clear that land if I wished. I believe I have been disadvantaged by being an original conservationist compared to someone else who totally cleared their land.

I have not received or been offered any compensation for the loss of income or value of my land which I believe is considerable now that carbon sequestration is a valuable source of income that the present laws do not allow me to claim on my vegetated land, but does for those that replant cleared land.

Donald B Johnston