

## **Submission to Finance and Public Administration Committee Inquiry into Native Vegetation**

I am a farmer . I have 5,000 acres, but one block of 1200 acres is the original farm. This block supported three families, but when the native vegetation restrictions came in it has become overgrown with regrowth and rubbish and is not productive like this. In fact I run sheep on this block but it barely generates enough income to pay the rates.

The same applies to an adjoining block of 2300 acres perpetual lease purchased in 1949. I do not feel confident approaching the CMA because there may be more regulations.

I was born on the land in 1930 and have had my share of droughts and floods – that is nature that nothing can be done about. However, when it is Government policy, there is no light at the end of the tunnel and it seems they are just making it harder and harder for farmers to make ends meet. I don't approve of mass clearing of trees and vegetation, but it seems the laws have gone so far backwards that we are losing the ability to farm our own land.

Please stop this bureaucratic nonsense, stop raising the white flag to the Greens. We farmers bust our backs 7 days a week to put food on the table for all Australians, but it seems there are obstacles everywhere.

We want to access ALL our land - if you quarantine our land so that we cannot make a living from it, you must compensate us.

Signed

Ray and Edna Mephram