

## Land Rights Submission

I am the owner of four freehold properties  
total area of about 1,200 hectares

One of the properties of about 400 hectares  
has never been cleared however it had been  
logged for timber by a previous owner.

When I purchased this paddock I  
consulted a forestry officer for advice, in  
his opinion the best way to develop this land  
would be to clear away some of the dense  
undergrowth to allow the cypress + ironbark  
to develop.

This suited my own plan as I did not  
intend to clear fell this paddock, all I wanted  
to do was to clear it so that the useful trees  
could develop, also opening up the land  
would allow some grass to grow so that I  
could run a few cattle

When the vegetation regulations were first  
enforced this paddock was classed as not  
of concern remnant vegetation + could be  
cleared with a permit

(1)

I thought this classification was O.K. however to win the next election Beatty changed the rules. All land with remnant vegetation had to remain in its present state. No clearing allowed.

Early in this vegetation fiasco the Federal Gov stated that it would assist the State Gov with a compensation package for farmers.

This offer was withdrawn when the State passed a law which gave the State power to force landholders to forgo their right to develop their freehold land to make it productive.

What makes this withdrawal of funds more unfair is the fact that the Fed. Gov. were happy to use the tree clearing to assist in meeting the Kyoto protocol.

At no time did the State or Federal Gov. point out to the Australian public that the tree clearing laws cost landholders millions of dollars at no cost to the Taxpayer. In my case alone I estimate about \$55,000 in land value + I continue to pay rates ect, + t.

(2)

What makes these laws even more unfair is the fact that they penalize landholders who left timber on their land. People that have cleared & cultivated their country can now sell at top price, while in my case all I have is a paddock covered with useless timber & scrub which in effect has been taken over by the State without one dollar in compensation.

I would like to know where my land rights have gone, in my opinion they have gone the same way as in Zimbabwe.

Your sincerely

Please excuse this scribble, I am out  
lunch, away from home at present. (3)

(A)