

Submission – Senate Enquiry into the impact of
The Native Vegetation Laws on landholders.

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Farmers are businesses run by normal people, their tools of trade, are the land which they farm. Laws designed to remove their ability to earn a decent living off their land is not just.

Farmers are still required to be the custodians of the land, manage their land, remove feral animals, poison obnoxious weeds, obtain chemical licences to be able to do this, as well as spray chemicals if they are broad acre farmers, drench sheep, drench cattle or goats, pay rates imposed by Councils as well a Pasture Protection Rates, yet are not compensated for having their lands locked up, making it impossible for them to earn a living.

Should these Laws lock up a farmers land, farmers' should be compensated for loss of income, loss of land asset value. Their children's inheritance has been eroded; it is no longer an asset, but an encumbrance.

There should be an appropriateness of the method of calculation of asset value in the determination of compensation. This should be done in consultation with the farmers.