

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010.

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our disgust and deep concern with the current legislation on property rights (in particular, native vegetation laws) and to demonstrate how detrimental it is to our current farming operation, and the future of our family on the land.

We are currently unable to develop a 1000ha portion of our property which was purchased with the intention of developing it into productive farming land. This area is a tree wasteland with no grasses and little biodiversity. Farming this area would make it both productive agricultural land as well as increase it's biodiversity. The loss of development potential is astronomical and extremely costly to both our family and our Australian primary industries. There are currently 3 families working on our property, including 6 children for the next generation. Our farm will not be viable if we are to succumb to these ridiculous laws which deny us OUR rights to OUR land.

While the general living standards of those around us in the cities rise, ours continues to decrease as farming is increasingly devalued and the importance of its production is minimised. Where does the current Australian population think that their meat and bread are going to come from in the future if the government does not support its primary industries and allow its farmers (who are brilliantly trained in farming management and production) to manage THEIR land. That's right, land WE paid for, to provide a living for OUR families.

It is crucial that you understand that we MUST be allowed to manage our property and farm this area to:

- increase the land's productivity for farming and grazing.
- increase the land value.
- provide for our family.
- pass on a viable business to the next generation.
- provide for the Australian community and future generations.

Often in the last few years we have been asked by people not involved in agriculture, how we cope with the drought. We tell them that the drought will end, however we have greater problems with the loss of property rights. This will not pass in a season or two and farming will become unsustainable.

We urge you to consider these points and make educated decisions that provide for the future of farming in Australia. The compensation suggestions are utterly ridiculous as it could never be enough to cover the productivity potential of the land and it would be a gross miss-management of the land we own.

Yours sincerely,

The Horsburgh Families.