

To whom this may concern,

We purchased our property two years ago to expand our beef cattle operation and make our business more viable. is approximately 60% category X and 40% remnant vegetation under the current vegetation act. It is also a so called FREEHOLD property. We are young producers making a start in the industry and paid for the rights to work this property.

This 40% of country we cannot develop which equates to a long term financial loss for us. Firstly if we wish to sell the property the value would be significantly different if there were options to manage this 40% of remnant vegetation and secondly the loss of production due to the diminished carrying capacity of this country. There are options available to thin vegetation out for forestry management practises but we have found these to be economically unviable for our business.

We cannot see any environmental gain in this legislation as most of the protected vegetation on is cypress pine which is not an endangered species. There is talk of improved country being a monoculture with grasses being the dominant species but anyone who has had experience developing country will tell you this is not true. Management of regrowth is a massive part of our operation and it always will be.

We are extremely disappointed with the way the legislation was implemented. There was and still is a lack of consultation with producers and producer groups. The whole moratorium period caused massive panic among the industry and lots of country was cleared that probably would not have been touched otherwise.

We are currently working with Agforce trying to sort out our PMAV (property map of assessable vegetation) which was received by the Department of Natural Resources on the 16th October 2008. We received a letter back on the 29th of October telling us our application had been received and we would be contacted at a later date to let us know when it was processed but we have heard nothing to this day. The lack of Knowledge and service in this department is an extreme disappointment.

We hear the predictions of the population growth in Australia let alone the world. We are being told to increase production and quality of product all while dealing with these ridiculous regulations which are an erosion of basic rights. We are not environmental vandals as some may think, we actually need to look after our country so it can continue to be productive for many years to come.

We would like to give thanks for the opportunity to put forward our point of view and we hope that something useful comes out of this enquiry.