

Submission to Inquiry of Native Vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Measures.

To: Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

From: Desley Brown

Background.

My choice was to marry a farmer 40 years ago. To exchange town life for country living within the Warra district. In doing so I believed that we would have a freedom involving a healthy lifestyle, surrounded by a clean environment, fresh air, grass with livestock grazing, cultivated land, growing crops and supplementing livestock production. This lifestyle was to carry on from a previous generation into a future generation.

Submission.

Freehold : Land held by the owner in absolute possession.

This is the oxford dictionary meaning to the word freehold.

The area we farm is freehold land – over the time we have seen the erosion of our rights by governments under the guise of betterment

for the people. This erosion involves the clearing of land of trees and native vegetation and proposed mining and power production. Farmers through generations have endeavoured to not only maintain but to improve the land by eradicating feral animals (that denude the natural vegetation and also our crops which feed not only ourselves but are exported to overseas countries) to leave this environment in a better shape than when we inherited it from our ancestors. Tree clearing – in the majority – was done only with this aim in mind. Prior to the implementation of the tree clearing laws some people cleared land in anticipation hoping to have areas free of pests etc. – maybe this was to excess – but if you have freehold rights to your land does that not mean you are in a better position to see what is needed to keep this land in the best possible condition.

Freehold land owners have to pay rates on ground which not only produces nothing of value but harbours pests (kangaroos, pigs and cockatoos and like birds) and noxious weeds which encroach on crops causing damage and downgrading of crops due to foreign matter being included in grains for human and animal production.

The world needs both grain and animal production to feed itself and the every growing population.

Water is becoming a scarce commodity in both Queensland and Australia but Government and industry appear to see fit to allow mining industries to extract water and gas in the production of their products. By doing so is there 100% guarantee that underground water aquifers will be there to supply both town and rural needs?

No there is no guarantee – in evidence presented this taking of underground water and reinjecting it back has not been proved to be a sound practice. There has been no evidence that salty water (A by product of gas extraction) reinjected will not contaminate the

remaining supplies which will affect everyone from towns to rural. There will be no water for drinking and supplying townships or for farmers to produce crops to feed the populace.

The mining of agricultural land will destroy Australia's and Queensland's ability to feed itself let alone export to other countries.

By eroding the rights of landholders to maintain, improve and care for their land the rights of Freehold land ownership has been taken for them.

These same people fought in World Wars to have the rights to have ownership and care of this country. Mining carried on its present day form and future direction has and will deny people their fundamental rights in making decision for the betterment of land in their care.

Mining industries produce immense income for governments in the short term but in doing so destroy the ability for a nation to feed itself and future generations.

Carbon credits for land unable to be cleared and kept in pristine conditions need to be applied to landholders

Climate changes are being effected by the mining and energy industries but does the world need this destruction of itself to overrule the ability to feed itself by allowing this to progress.

If both open cut and underground mining, and gas and electricity production within the Warra area progresses as proposed the

contamination of the environment will make whatever I envisioned for the future null and void. A Clean Green Productive Area to live will be gone never to be returned to its pristine condition.

Summary - Self preservation both of people And productive and viable land need to be addressed, and by denying mining and misuse of viable land we can achieve this for ourselves and future generations.

I urge you think of what we had and do we really need to destroy things in the name of progress not only within our area but Australia wide.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission. I hope that an outcome preserving our future can be obtained.

Yours faithfully,

Desley Brown. On behalf of my family