

To Whom It May Concern:

Our property has some hardwood on it that has been selectively logged for many years until 1990, when it was stopped by Government regulations. This forest land now earns nothing but we still pay Local Government and Rural Land Protection Board rates, control fires, dogs and noxious weeds on it.

This forest was an asset to our family to raise our children, meet financial crises such as drought, fires, market collapses and illness, or as security for old age. State Government has stolen this asset from us with no compensation!

This property also has open grazing ridge country which was cleared one hundred years ago but eucalypt seedlings continue to germinate on this country. This situation is very common in the sub-tropical woodlands of coastal New South Wales and Queensland. Under present law if the landowner does not control all native regrowth before it reaches twenty years of age or approximately 200mm in diameter, then it is protected for ever. Consequently the landowner has lost the timber rights and the land the timber grows on has been stolen from his business with no compensation!

The urban parallel to this injustice would be if a suburban landholder failed to keep his lawn mowed within the period not exceeding one month, then his lawn area would be confiscated from his control (he would never be allowed to mow it again) and he would not be entitled to compensation for the loss of this assets value!

The present Vegetation Management laws are an infringement of basic Property Rights.

Regards,
Tony Hart.