

**1<sup>st</sup> March, 2010**

**Submission to the Finance and Public Administration Inquiry into Native Vegetation**

I am not a farmer, but I am an Australian.

I am concerned our liberty is being taken from us, and after hearing Peter Spencer at Inverell yesterday, I feel I must make a submission to your inquiry.

I cannot understand how any authority can interfere with the ownership of someone's property without compensation. To me, this is theft, and is not the Australian way.

A farmer earns his livelihood by farming ALL his land, but to have a Government or bureaucracy come in and say "you can't touch that even though it is yours" is totally wrong. What happened to the freedom our parents and grandparents fought for.

At the very least farmers should be compensated for loss of potential earnings. It is hard enough for farmers to make a living now without further restrictions. If you think it is easy, have a look at the number of rural suicides and family break-ups. They need a hand-up, not pushed down.

Signed

Margaret O'Regan