

To the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Email address :- fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Re:- Submission on Native Vegetation Laws

Our grain farming property of 323Hectares has 7% of its area under Native Vegetation Law. As a result this land cannot be cleared for grain farming in anyway or for any reason in the future. As there are properties in the area with no vegetation the result of this law is that our farm land assets and productivity has been reduced. Whereas the debate of having trees on your land is a separate issue, we believe that agriculture owners of Native Vegetation areas that has been frozen by this law and cannot be cleared should be compensated in some way.

The following are our suggestions:-

1. Where land could have been cleared for a variable cropping rotation but is protected under Native Vegetation Law we believe that the compensation should be given on a yearly basis. This amount could be worked out on the average of gross margins of the crops produced on the same property in the previous year and paid on a prorata basis. This compensation could be paid in a monetary way or in the form of a monetary relief of some kind.
2. When this land is sold the compensation packet as previously explained (in suggestion 1.) goes with the sale of the property. This would bring into line the asset value of properties like ours with other properties of similar land and production which we fully cleared previously to the implementation of the Native Vegetation Laws.
3. The Native Vegetation on our property and as on many other properties is not suitable for any other type of agriculture production as it is very heavily timbered and has no pasture value at all. The density of the native vegetation does not allow for pastures to grow.

We believe that this is a fair way of compensation for the property owners who have Native Vegetation on their properties and as a result they and any future owners cannot clear this land for the production of cereal grains.

A lot of people get up and say "Save the environment" but the Native Vegetation Laws have affected our asset. People who do not own agriculture land should play their part too by paying compensation through their taxes and government. As the Native Vegetation Laws stand the property owner is the only person paying for the loss of production and the loss in the asset value of the land he owns.

We as land owners of Native Vegetation Land and taxpayers have to pay for the upkeep and purchase of land for National Parks and the like so why can't all taxpayers help pay for Native Vegetation Land.

Thank you for this opportunity to send this submission to your Committee.

Colin and Patricia Muller.