

Submission

Senate Inquiry into

Native Vegetation Laws, Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Measures

By the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

This submission has been prepared by Alwyn Whalen

As per the inquiry terms of reference this submission deals with the impact of the NSW native vegetation laws on my property

Specifically section

(a) any diminution of land asset value and productivity as a result of such laws;

I own a parcel of land approximately 580 acres, the majority of which is flood prone. One area of that land is approximately 100 acres. Two thirds (2/3) of that 100 acres currently has a logging contract with the NSW State Government. The remaining one third (1/3) needs to be cleaned to allow pasture growth for my cattle to graze during heavy rain and/or flood times. Native Legislation laws currently prevent me from cleaning that land. My off-farm income, which was earned as a dozing contractor for farmers has all but ceased, directly due to the Native Vegetation laws. With virtually no off-farm income I am unable to purchase more land for my cattle to use during flood times.

I am now in a position where I am forced to decrease my cattle numbers due to insufficient grazing land (particularly during flood times), which results in loss of on-farm income. I am still responsible for paying Council rates, LHPA rates and insurance as well as the cost of controlling noxious weeds, feral animals and fire on land I can no longer use.

Specifically section

(b) compensation arrangements to landholders resulting from the imposition of such laws;

There has been no compensation for my loss of income and asset value loss.

Section

(c) the appropriateness of the method of calculation of asset value in the determination of compensation arrangements; and

Nil submission

Specifically Section

(d) any other related matter.

Currently I own 2 x bulldozers valued at and insured for \$75,000 (75 thousand dollars) each. If I am forced to sell those two pieces of equipment I would not realize even half of their true value. As a result of the NSW Native Vegetation laws the value of my property, my on and off farm income and my machinery assets is hugely diminished. "Just Terms" compensation must be paid for my loss of asset and land usage rights.

This submission was prepared by:

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