

RG & SR Hurford

2nd. March 2010

Senate Committee
Laws Native Vegetation Management
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senators

We purchased _____, a property of 16,600 Ha in area, in February 2000. We were informed at that time there was no restriction on clearing the remaining 4,225 Ha of native vegetation which is predominantly Mulga with a small number of yellow jacket. We were not in a financial position to clear at this time. We were not concerned as we intended to use this area to assist in drought and Pimelea poisoning management by pulling the Mulga to feed cattle. A large dam had been built in preparation for these events. Of course with the laws introduced by the Queensland Government we are no longer able to use dozers for this purpose. It is impossible to feed 1,000 cows with a chain saw. The vegetation management laws have rendered a quarter of our property virtually useless without any form of compensation.

We applied for a permit to clear on the 13th of September, 2002. After several extensions a negative decision was made on the 31st of March, 2004. We applied for compensation on the 13th of November 2006. We were informed we were not entitled to compensation because we had applied under the previous legislation which was introduced after we purchased _____.

An application for a Fodder Permit for the 4,225 Ha was made on the 13th of February 2007. A decision was made on the 2nd of May, 2007. We were granted a restricted permit for approximately 1,000Ha. This permit is complex with the area actually able to be utilized even further reduced.

The Queensland legislation in relation to Native Vegetation Management permanently impacted our viability in normal seasons but not being able to use this resource in the drought may yet be our undoing.

We hope this submission is of use to the committee.

Yours faithfully

Sharmaine Hurford