

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

I wish to make a submission to the inquiry into public good conservation - impact of environmental measures imposed on landholders.

Although the type of landholding to which my submission applies would appear to be outside the terms of reference, I believe it should be considered because it is public good conservation, it has a financial cost to the landholder, and the cost of such conservation should be shared equitably across the community.

I refer to landholdings bought by members of the public specifically for the purpose of the conservation of native flora and fauna. This is done at personal cost to the individuals for the purchase of the land, the lost opportunity costs and the on-going costs of rates, taxes and land management.

If such land is dedicated to conservation in perpetuity for example by means of a covenant, such as now exists in Western Australian through the National Trust of Australia (WA), then it is only fair that the landholder be assisted through rate relief and any other measure offered to landholders on whom conservation measures are imposed by State or Federal Governments.

In some instances it may be difficult to differentiate between voluntary and imposed conservation measures, therefore in the interests of equity, all land managed for conservation purposes should be treated in the same way.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to elaborate on my submission upon my return to Australia on 5 June.

Yours sincerely,

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