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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 1 July 2012 8:29 AM

To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox

Subject: Native Vegetation Regulation Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

The native vegetation Act may sound like a cuddley pile of motherhood statements, but once on the ground it becomes an oppressive and brutal club to destroy lives, livelihoods and the environment!

For example.

My family has owned a 330 acre property of private native forestry for many years.

It has been used for selective logging for well over 100 years, and yet according to environmental studies, it is still in pristine condition. State forests on the other hand are now being raped by big destructive government contractors, clear felled for the lowest possible use and value product (woodchips) and left in a terrible mess.

Even the local greens freely admit that when these public forests were logged by private mill owners (who were all doing very well and employing many locals), you could barely tell where the loggers had been.

They would go in with a small machine or tractor and selectively log a small area, and clean it up when they were finished.

But Governments like big monopolies (because they don't think long term, and initially get more revenue), so Bob Carr killed them off to replace them with large government contractors and wood chip exporters.

So we are not allowed to make a living using selective logging, the land is virtually useless, and council has spent years blocking us from using the land for anything else.

For example. Council removed our only access road, which was a registered parish road, without due process, and land locked us.

They then refused to process any DA,s for decades. They also resumed our 1.2 KM beach frontage for supposedly public reserve and a new road, but then included what is commonly called a "spite strip" 3 metres wide along our 1.2km frontage to prevent us getting automatic access under section 6 of the roads act. During this time council clear felled and developed much of their own forest land next door to us, and are now using the compulsorily acquired beach frontage to extend their airport (and develop housing on that as well).

My sisters family finally took council to court for refusing her house DA after having "frozen" it for eight years. It cost her several hundred thousand dollars to beat council and get (conditional approval) for a small 3br house.

Council used the court to force my sister to sign a "voluntary" agreement when she builds. Where she will not be allowed to even pick up dead wood on her private native forestry land.

Councils ecologist testified that (despite conducting extensive studies) showing no significant environmental impacts. My sister should not be allowed to live on her own land because she may carry out "key threatening activities".

When cross examined by my sisters barrister she was asked to list examples of these "key threatening activities". To which she replied "Walking the dog, riding a bicycle, and bird watching" !

My sister has five children now, so the house would be too small, but changing it now would only give them another chance to stop her.

Council still have not even given my sister legal access, and they will undoubtedly use this to frustrate her further, and drive up the costs even more.

eg. Council originally wanted about \$160 000 dollars to cross the 3m spite strip back in the 1990's (before they later withdrew the offer)

I have since proved council dumped large amounts of liquid toxic waste (many tanker loads) on the boundary with my sisters land in the early 1990,s. Council denied this right up until recently until I proved it from their own records (which they had also denied existed)

Council now claim the water table is not contaminated, but I do not believe this.

Under freedom of information I also proved that council had approved a DA for a house, shed and horse stalls around the same time as they refused my sisters application on the edge of a large wetland next door (in the same forest, only denser).

This was on land sold by council, and none of the "required" environmental studies were done. In fact the only thing done was a brief fire report. My sister was forced to not only do extensive studies, but then told this was not enough. So she did much more, including remote camera studies for months more. Then (still finding nothing endangered) was again told this also was not enough and that she would have to do a full EIS. Which can take years (cost hundreds of thousands of dollars) of are usually only required for major developments.

My sister was also sent a letter from the CMA saying that they believed she had done "illegal clearing", with a threat of \$1000 000 plus fines.

As my sister lived overseas at the time, and we did not even own a chainsaw or even a tractor back then, I called them and asked what they were talking about (as we had NEVER cut anything down)

The lady explained that "overgrazing" could also be considered illegal clearing. (obviously referring to some goats we had agisted on the property years earlier). Which was a little embarrassing for her, as they had been removed years before. So what they were seeing from the satellite was just the browning of vegetation due to the drought!

When the goats were on there (taken because they were starving from a property out west), a guy who does my lawns took in a box trailer of lawn clippings to help feed them, and was followed in by a council ranger, who threatened to fine him if he did this again.

This is the sort of harassment farmers must now deal with from government. Over the years we have tried to find other ways to make a living, like eco tourism (as the land is in a prime tourist location near the shires most popular beach), but council will not even discuss this. (they obviously do not want competition with their van parks)

Others are also regularly rejected, and the latest LEP did not even have eco tourism as an allowed use on rural land until after much public uproar. (and good luck getting approval!)

The only one I know of in the area told me he is not even able to complete his now. Due to new restrictions.

My sisters land is also listed as a state significant sand resource. And it was used by locals for building sand for probably over 100 years. There is a mine on our northern boundary which has a monopoly on that type of building sand from Nowra to Bega.

Trucks are sent up to a mine near Canberra every day to bring back the same sand (Because some will not deal with that owner) But of course we will never be allowed to open a new mine, with even the one next door having a hard time renewing his current licence.

What a waste of fuel and man hours those trucks with trailers waste! Hauling up and down the steep Clyde mountains every day. The greens are just socialist nutters, and the government is no more than a Kleptocracy.

Everyone in business knows this.

I could go on, but whats the point?

One day, when China owns us, and our children are the poor white trash of Asia, our children will curse this generation for sabotaging their inheritance.

Sincerely

Damien Rogers

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