
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 July 2012 1:20 PM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Native Veg Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,
Please accept my submission re the native Vegetation Act.

- Submissions from farmers should receive a much higher weighting as they are only about 1% of the community and yet the impact will be felt the most by them
- The outcome is about the broader community seeing that farmers are doing the right thing, it doesn't have an environmental outcome that is measurable. This is true as there is zero monitoring in the offset area. It would be a safe assumption that landholders in the LMD Catchment literally lock up and leave the offset. Is this a positive outcome?
- What is happening re communication within and between government departments as this is causing a lot of the frustration due to poor or inaccurate communication? There is a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the LMD CMA and western Lands based around time frames of communication. Whilst every attempt is made to get projects signed off by the time frames under the MoU it rarely happens.
- There is no incentive as part of the act for farmers to manage their land well this is about "stick" not carrot. That's right, if you reduce the quality of the vegetation to be cleared before the clearing application, your offset will be reduced, so there is no incentive to manage the land well.
- The fact that the act tries to place the same (or similar) rules state wide devalues the IQ of the ecologists involved in the formation of the act as the land differs so much across smaller regions let alone the state. No wonder farmers treat OEH with a fair bit of contempt. The current system of PVP's etc. does very little to recognise the skills of the local officers and the difficulties that they go through to make minor alterations that will make the project suit the region better aren't worth approaching so the project ends up not suiting the region.
- Gravel pits for roads, need them included in RAMA's as they are on leasehold land the shire has had to buy in gravel when it is available alongside the road due to the inability to open gravel pits.
- Seemed to be the opinion that once land was cleared then it had no natural value and would never eve recover, this had been shown to be incorrect, the thought still exists in OEH. How will this be addressed in the new act?

Thanks for accepting my submission.
cheers

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