

## PUBLIC COMMENTS NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATIONS REVIEW.

From Narelle Swanson

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I am very pleased to see the improved clarity for farmers and landowners in the proposed regulations and facts sheets for native vegetation management.

In particular

- \* RAMS clearing for fencing and other infrastructure, clearer fair.
- \* Garden plantings of native vegetation acknowledged.
- \* Recognition that there has been a disincentive to plant native vegetation for fear of restrictions in the future.

However I feel there is still that fear that especially the plantings of species that are associated with threatened species that there will be restrictions on management in the future if they are planted now.

Private Native Forestry may address these concerns for large plantings, however for smaller plantings for example a windbreak planting, which may be used for on farm use when say individual trees are mature or the planting needs to be removed as it has served its original purpose. There needs to be a simple register of such plantings, so that there is an assurance that the plants can be removed used or replaced.

Native Vegetation on small rural holdings, in coastal areas where tree growth is rapid, there should be more incentive to be able to plant native trees so that wildlife benefits in the growing period and the landowner can use or manage years later.

The negatives I now face because I have planted native trees 30+ years ago are

- \* Land is devalued for sale because habitat protection areas have been applied.
- \* Less land and greater restrictions.
- \* In particular limited and costly management of fuel loads and higher bush fire risk.
- \* Problems with mature trees and limbs falling and the complex approvals and restrictions applied to reducing this risk.
- \* Lack of sunlight and problems of over shading. Had I planted exotic species I would have been free to self manage.

I acknowledge that native vegetation is important however there is still not enough value and incentive to landowners to maintain it. Landowners who clear and have benefited in the past and still benefit because the land is clear should be supporting native vegetation areas not just that landowners with native vegetation. Grants for just planting trees is not enough.

Narelle Swanson 13th August 2012