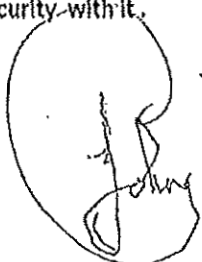



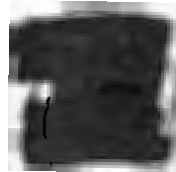
Submission native vegetation act review .

My name is John Francis Kennedy [REDACTED] Uralla . The native vegetation act needs to be immediately and completely dismantled . It is a basic infringement on the rights of landholders whereby a landholder becomes an unpaid park ranger on land that is unable to be managed or give an economic return due to legal impositions . In reality however I doubt the act will be caste out as the rubbish it is . If we are stuck with it there will be a long term devaluation of timbered country and associated low or non existent returns from this type of country . These type of properties are virtually unsalable due to the legislation so there is an issue in respect to compensation for effected landholders . Much of the land effected was once leasehold land and the timber was owned by the crown and managed by state forests . When these areas became freehold the landholder purchased the timber rights from the crown . The native vegetation act has taken back these timber rights with no compensation . In fact there no longer is freehold title in NSW . The native vegetation act has stripped that title away .

Much of the clearing of native vegetation was carried out after the second war with an influx of labour , soldier settlement schemes and government incentives . It carried on into the late 1950s due to high commodity prices and good seasonal conditions . Drought conditions in the 1960s combined with a collapse in wool prices was followed with collapse in beef prices in the 1970s . Ongoing droughts and a major wool market disaster in 1991 from which the market has not recovered, and never will, set the scene for the early 1990s . From 1990 until recent times at least half of that time has been in drought conditions . These time lines are significant in that through these tough times money is not spent . So follow up work on clearing and regrowth control was not carried out . Much of the regrowth that is now an issue is from 1945/1950s and this needs to be recognised . The 1990 regrowth date is unworkable . If the act remains the regrowth date needs to be 1950 . In addition the RAMA provisions need revising . For example five and ten metre allowances for fence lines are ridiculous . Many trees grow in excess of thirty metres and are constantly falling across fences . A wide fence line is also necessary for moving stock . A minimum of thirty metres either side is required on all fences . Minimum fire break width of fifty metres in all areas . In view of recent devastating fires this essential . Clearing widths around buildings and improvements a minimum of two hundred metres for fire protection and management . Invasive native scrub should have no restrictions on removal whatsoever . Tracks and roads need to be a minimum of twenty metres for driver safety and stock access . No restriction on areas cleared for water storage , structural improvements , erosion control and timber for on farm use . Decriminalisation of this act needs to occur immediately . Australian landholders producing fibre and protein for domestic and export consumption cannot be subjected to criminal charges in the carrying out of normal business . This act also acts to drive more young people away from agriculture as it prevents them from buying a block to improve and resell as a stepping stone to a more viable operation .

In summary the act needs to go now on a permanent basis . If it does not the aforementioned alterations need to be made but I fear they will be too little too late to prevent the damage to Australian agriculture . When the mines are silent empty pits agriculture will remain and our food security with it.

JFKennedy
 



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