

## **SUBMISSION: NATIVE VEGETATION**

22 August 2012

Well here we go again: another round of submissions to the ill-fated Native Vegetation Act. And for what! Commonsense tells you that to operate a farm in Australia requires flexibility to handle the mountain of issues that crop up on a yearly basis.

Vegetation management requires flexibility. A run of wet seasons leads to an explosion of seedling – invasive scrub chokes out grasses. Management can't be done overnight; yet time frames are placed on any vegetation outcome.

The ability to crop country to recoup expenses is a self-funding way to remediate land. Yet we are again hamstrung by the "crop only 3 times in 15 years" policy. No flexibility!!!

The vegetation lobby must think farmers have an endless supply of money; that we can survive while operating within a complex maze of regulations. WRONG!

The North Lachlan Bogan Regional Vegetation Management Plan was produced by a wide ranging committee over 5 years. The fact that it received 94% support in the public consultation phase showed it to be a very workable document.

At our recent Catchment Management Authority review of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 (NVA) in Nyngan, 125 people unanimously voted to repeal the NVA and regulations completely.

The social and economic aspects of the Act have not been recognized as a strong emphasis has been placed on the environmental aspects. The unbalanced attitude to retaining so many stems per hectare flies in the face of a healthy balanced environment. The state of NSW is so diverse that local vegetation plans must be installed as a blanket plan does not fit all situations. Sustainability will only occur when these issues are addressed.

The buy up of agricultural land continues by the vegetation lobby. This is a commercial decision by the seller. The inappropriate stifling of agricultural production as a result of the NVA in its current form is abhorrent, un-Australian and limits production in a country that needs to increase outputs.

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