

# SUBMISSION

## NATIVE VEGETATION ACT & REGULATIONS

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By Peter Krause

I have been involved in Agriculture for more than 40 years. In earlier times I had great respect for the Government Agencies – The Dept of Agriculture and N.S.W. Soil Conservation Service. I sought their advice readily.

I would like to make a comment on the Native Vegetation Act and the proposed changes. I find it absurd that N.S.W. Environmental Land Use Laws have been legislated by - a minority group - extremely ill-informed Green Extremists. It was a sad day in 1990 when, to form a government the Greens were empowered to bring about Environmental Laws that would have had such a negative effect on Agriculture in N.S.W.

I have been to a number of Native Vegetation Meetings recently with capacity attendances. The question of –“ Who has done a P.V.P.?” - Only 4 out of 100 people had done so. Demonstrating the lack of credibility of the - Planning; the Planners; the computer programme (assessment methodology) and the people involved. Often the property Owner just does not trust personnel to come onto their property – quite intimidated by the possible outcome. Again at these meetings a question will be directed to someone in the C.M.A. and their answer is corrected by another member of the C.M.A. – giving the impression of very unclear regulations. This has clearly been proven when some Landholders have been served with a summons for doing something that they had been directed to do by a C.M.A. person only to be served with a Native Veg Summons by someone else. We would have to say this is diabolical. It appears that some of the rules in play come off the “top of the head” on the run. With this in mind I suggest strongly that the Native Veg Act and the Regulations that come out of the Act has failed dismally.

1. It has not been accepted by the majority of Land Managers
2. The Regulations, the Regulators and Staff involved are viewed with great suspicion and lack of Credibility by Land Managers who avoid having any contact with them
3. The Regulations are often quoted inconsistently – again challenging their credibility.
4. The enforcement of the Act is met by an all powerful legal response. **One is deemed Guilty until proven otherwise and there is NO RIGHT OF APPEAL**
5. The Personnel involved with the Regulations may well be well educated, but lack experience, communication skills and seem to have a single minded extreme environmental agenda.
6. It proves how out of tune the Regulators are to suggest a Computer Programme can digest and devise a P.V.P. when dealing with individual and fragile sensitive land use.
7. The “ word play” of the interpretation of Regulations leave Land Managers in complete bewilderment. There seems to be a jargon evolved by the C.M.A. leaving most people with no idea as to what is being said.

As a long term Land Owner, Land Manager and Land Developer, I express tremendous disappointment at the outcome of Regulations arising out of the Native Veg Act. I welcome the readiness by the new government to modify the regulations but the proposed changes need to go much MUCH further.