

SUBMISSION NATIVE VEGETATION ACT & REGULATIONS by Sandra Krause

At the Information Sessions on the Draft changes to the Regulations of the Native Vegetation Act held across the State between June and July 2012 – most sessions unanimously passed a motion that the **Native Vegetation Act and regulations should be repealed** **They are bad in principle and bad in practice.**

State Govt. Representatives have indicated that only the Regulations will be changed. There does not seem to be any real attempt to address the main issues. At no other time has the State Govt. had such a majority - to give it the opportunity to right the terrible wrongs that have been carried out against the farmers of this state.

Are you aware that, if we are prosecuted by the Native Veg Regulators, **we are guilty until proven innocent and we have no right of appeal**. Not even a mass murderer is treated like this. Are we 5th class citizens or worse. Why has this been allowed to happen. The Boat people arriving in this country as Asylum Seekers, have more Rights than we do.

Come on National Party and Liberal Party Representatives **stand up and fight for the rights of Country People.** We have had our **Property Rights and our human rights** taken away by the previous government. These laws are unconstitutional.

Prior to the Election Mr Andrew Stoner in an email to constituents stated “**rest assured both Nationals and Liberals in NSW remain opposed to Labor’s theft of property rights, be it through the Native Vegetation Act or Planning Legislation**”

Please do your research and arm yourself with knowledge and wisdom and fight for your beliefs Mr Stoner with the help of all your fellow Representatives be they Nationals or Liberals - become Statesmen who are prepared to change laws to make things right - not just Politicians worrying about the next election. Common sense is badly needed here with a genuine desire for win win outcomes

Don't go weak at the knees when the word environment is mentioned. After all farmers know and care more about the environment than any so called Greeney (who is never afraid to mix fact with fiction).

The previous Govt was very cleverly manipulated by minority extremist groups. These people cunningly worked their way into bureaucratic jobs where they could control the publicity, the drafting and wording of legislation and regulations. Their aim it would seem is to get rid of all farmers West of the Range. Please weed out these people – they are as bad as any terrorists who have sort to destroy. They will stop at nothing to achieve their obsession. They want to CONTROL and be POWERFUL (The Gestapo comes to mind)

Education is a very powerful tool. Do everything in your power to educate our city cousins and city Politicians about how the environment really works. Farmers do not rape the land – it is not in their interest to do so. We want to pass it onto the next generation better than we received it. Farmers need a healthy environment to be able to sustain our income. We do not need our city cousins to tell us how we should do that. Especially if they have not been past Gosford or the Blue Mountains very often, if at all.

We need to have **Environment Courses in Universities grounded by facts** not theories. These courses need to be re-evaluated in consultation with Land Managers, with on the ground experience. Some of these theories that have been espoused, have outcomes contrary to their aims, when put into practice in the real world. The graduates from some of these courses do not appear to have a basic understanding of agronomy and good science. **Take the airy fairy theories out of the courses please.**

Make these Graduates get their hands in the soil and as a requirement to graduate – spend set periods of on ground time in the bush with farmers and agricultural experts - see how the environment really works. Get over the warm fuzzy feelings when the word Environment is mentioned – and thinking you should immediately pop out and plant a tree. Get the real facts and train these people properly so that when they are asked to make an assessment as an expert - they might even know what they are talking about. The Lecturers may need some time in the bush also before they contaminate their students. Reduce the number of course places available. Let us only choose the top people to do these jobs. Let us not make it the course that everyone does when they miss getting into the course they really wanted to do. ***If these Graduates with grounded experience have credibility*** - farmers will seek out these people for advice on the environment. They will not need to be forced to do so.

Do you know how much money has and is being wasted by the CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES? I could name dozens and dozens of the wrong people receiving large amounts of money to plant trees, fence etc etc. The trees die, there is no great plan with the money to be spent. Helps finance the increase of the value of a hobby farms with better fences etc. The Bureaucrats get paid huge salaries, are in huge numbers and not actually achieving very much. No one wants a PVP. No one trusts the C.M.A. or wants them anywhere near their property. If they do have any understanding of the Environment they are hog tied by the infamous PVP Developer (Computer System – Assessment Methodology). The Environmental Graduates are very powerful and controlling as well as misinformed and confused by the Act and the Regulations.

This Native Vegetation Act has set up an industry in its self which has cost this State an absolute fortune and has achieved no real positive outcomes. We have locked up huge amounts of land in mismanaged National Parks. We have seen the worst bushfires ever during this time. We have destroyed our timber industry. We have caused many people to suicide. We have wasted so many productive hours of people's time attending useless meetings with seen to be processes of consultation (same as this present process). This Act has bred the very worst forms of Bureaucracy who would like to have to give you permission to breathe.

Government save our money. Divert this money back through a Dept. of Agriculture where you employ agronomists, researchers, soil conservationists – all with the knowledge and respect of the Agricultural Community who will seek their opinion and knowledge to make a real difference to the Environment. **Repeal the Act and the Regulations.** The Government will save a fortune and will not need to pay us for taking away our Land Rights and our Human Rights. Because you will have to eventually. You could even use some of this money to manage our National Parks –(Manage being the key word) or help finance our young farmers onto the Land with subsidised cheap loans (The average age of farmers is over 65 I believe) Many of these young people question why they would want to come back to manage a system that is so over governed. Who is going to grow our food in the future?

Good Land Management must be rewarded. We have lost the freedom to manage our Resources in our land. In situations where it is critical that the Landholder needs flexibility eg. Climatic Conditions; New Technologies; Economic Circumstances; Changing Enterprises; Family Situations. Farmers should be able to develop a portion of their land each year without any applications necessary

EDUCATION and PROOF of the Benefits of Native Vegetation NOT OVER REGULATION is the key to successful Native Vegetation and Environmental Outcomes.