

Submission to the Review of the Native Vegetation Regulation

My name is Walter Mitchell and I live in the Western Division of NSW, my connection to this land goes back 5 generations of European ancestry and unknown indigenous ancestry. My family has owned western land leases for over 100 years. These leases and lease agreements stated that you must undertake improvements and maintain those improvements. Ringbarking suckerbashing and grubbing were improvements undertaken and repeated periodically on my property to maintain and improve the grazing on the lease up until 1966. After this date machinery (bulldozers) was used under pasture improvement licences to maintain improvements on some of the land. Due to the cost not all land that was previously improved has been cleared this way. To be able to achieve triple bottom line outcomes I need to be able to continue management. The Native Vegetation Regulations say that I should be able to get a continuing land use or change of regrowth date PVP to continue to maintain the land management that had sustained productivity in the past. On contacting the local CMA every difficulty possible has been put in my way. Multi stemmed bumble box with a dead ringbarked centre pipe that had reshot from the base of the stump was deemed to have not been killed so would not be considered regrowth.

A legal opinion was required to clarify what treatments could be used to treat accepted regrowth. An email was sent by computer to get the legal clarification and an email was dually received back, saying since the original clearing had been done with an axe by ringbarking (50 plus years ago) I would have continue to do this in the present time. There was no suggestion that I should have gotten this message by carrier pigeon or snail mail by the same system the original permission was sent out 50 plus years ago. Seems the bureaucrats are allowed to modernise but we backward cockies must continue on in the dark ages. I can't possibly maintain the environment or productivity of my property without all modern tools and free and open regulations. The present and draft regulations have to go and be replaced with legislation that takes triple bottom line outcomes equally into account.

I read with interest that the end date for submissions is 24th August and the regulations are due to be repealed on the 1st September, one would believe that the bureaucrats still have no intention of listening to the people as they have left no time to even read these submissions let alone implement any of the information into revised regulations. It is no good cutting red tape, the whole regulation and act needs to be thrown out.