

Mr Richard Torbay
MP Northern Tablelands

HON. MINISTER ROBYN PARKER

KC & JC Ryan
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
TULLAMORE NSW 2874

6 September 2011

ph/fax: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Dear Mr Torbay

In response to The Land (1 September 2011) article on native vegetation by Richard Fox I am writing in support of the need for compensating farmers for complying with native vegetation laws.

My wife and I own the 2131 hectare property Emu Valley situated between Tullamore and Albert in Central West NSW. We have had land usage restrictions placed upon us and feel discriminated against by the NSW government.

My grandfather purchased the property in 1928 and my father said that at that time he could "see all over the property". Much of the timber was rung bark during the 1940's 50's and 60's. There are the remnants of a 1900's station fence on the property which could not have been erected by horse and cart if the timber was there like it is today. In the 1960's many properties in the area were pulled by D-9 dozers. At the time my father could not afford to clear in this way as he had six children all of whom he supported at boarding school. I purchased the property in 1982 and re-commenced the land improvement programme now restricted by the Native Vegetation Act.

The current carrying capacity of the property is 1600 sheep which is not enough to make a reasonable living and my wife has to work off farm. We have 1000 hectares of timber remaining of which 320 hectares would be suitable for clearing and contouring improving the property and increasing productivity and viability, the restrictions now prevent us from doing this.

It is possible to plant trees on farmland and sell the carbon credits and yet we who are prevented from clearing are unable to trade carbon credits and get an income from the timber we have. Does the Australian Government benefit by claiming the carbon credits on the land it has forced us to lock up?

We feel discriminated against when a cleared farm can be purchased and sown to timber for a carbon income and we, the bloke next door, with timber on our land are unable to claim carbon credits. We feel there is great inequity when our neighbour can reclear land that was cleared and farmed in the 1960's and has grown back over when we are prevented from clearing the regrowth on land that was previously ring barked and grazed.

I believe the area of timber we have is now more thickly "tree'd" than ever. Reduction by fire, natural or aboriginal, no longer occurs as we extinguish bushfires. Past clearing indicated by the old station fence and ring barking within my family ownership has regrown and that there are few big old trees. We should be allowed to clear old regrowth or be compensated.

Imagine what would happen if Tony Kelly was asked to lock up 40% of his country at Wellington, yet this is the man who made us sign PVP's and did not inform us that they could be varied. This detail emerged after the event!

Yours sincerely

Ken Ryan

KC Ryan

OUR NEXT STEP WILL BE TO THE LAWYERS,
SO REQUEST A MEETING WITH MINISTER TO
SHOW WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON.

KEN RYAN K.C. Ryan

SENT 6-9-11
9.40.

R.P. SENT 13-10-11

NYNCAN

There has been zero compensation for our \$300,000.00 asset loss under the native vegetation lock up.

A solution could be for the government to pay the landowner an annual, CPI linked fee to care for the timbered land under lock up. This would produce an income resulting in the maintaining of land value

Secifically section

- (c) the appropriateness of the method of calculation of asset value in the determination of compensation arrangements

Nil submission

Specifically section

- (d) any other related matter

The biggest impact of the Native Vegetation Law is on private property rights, depriving owners of the right to control their own property. The State should not be able to take property without just payment.

We believe that farmers are being discriminated against and used by the government to fund the Kyoto Deal with these Native Vegetation Laws.

Will AMP, Woolworths and individuals be asked to lock up 40% of their business or home premises?

This submission was prepared by

Ken & Jan Ryan

 Tullamore, NSW 2874