
From: Kim Elzerman [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, 24 August 2012 11:42 AM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Submission to changes to Native Vegetation Act

Dear Sirs,

I have yet to hear any landowner speak of 'reducing duplication and streamlining processes' when referring to the Native Vegetation Act. Nor have I heard of any landowner stressing their commitment to the environmental principles embodied in the Act.

Those principles, which have been practised by the majority of private landowners in the past, have only served to punish those who are environmentally minded. As it stands, the issue with the Native Vegetation Act relates exclusively to property rights and nothing more.

The Native Vegetation Act does not affect only 'farmers' as is commonly quoted. It severely affects every landholder in the country, unless they happen to live in the city. This is dividing the country into two - the haves and the have nots. The legislation is altering the balance of power in fundamental ways which will have grave social and economic consequences for the country, both rural and urban. Adhering to the principles of the 1992 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, which is not compatible with private property rights, exacerbates this effect and threatens the sovereignty of our government. NSW should withdraw from it.

1. The NVA Act and other similar laws must be repealed, or amended to only affect publicly owned lands.
2. Principles such as those in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment should be applied only to publicly owned lands, if at all.
3. All studies, recommendations and reports from government must be required to include a statement of impact on private property rights and the economic and social impacts.

Kim Elzerman

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