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**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2012 5:39 PM  
**To:** EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox  
**Subject:** NATIVE TITLE REVIEW

My family has owned and managed land on the South Coast of NSW since the 1860's. We currently graze livestock, harvest timber, sell quarry products from quarries on our property and have sold off some land as rural residential blocks.

Since the Native vegetation act was introduced we have found its effects to be extremely negative on our productivity and property values for the following reasons:

We use fire as a tool to manage our land, as was done here pre European settlement. Properly managed fires reduce fuel build up, aid in timber regeneration, improve livestock carrying capacity, help control weeds and invasive scrub and allow us to break the parasite cycle in our livestock and be less reliant on vaccines and drenches.

As a result of the native vegetation act it is now very difficult to control burn on private land. On our property this has increased fuel build up putting valuable regrowth timber at risk of being destroyed by wildfire and endangering public safety particularly on that part of our land that borders a rural village.

The native vegetation act has also restricted our ability to naturally control parasites in our livestock and achieve organic status, made weed control and rabbit control harder, lowered our carrying capacity and increased our costs.

We have also found that the process used to conduct property vegetation plans, especially on rural residential land relies on overly complex calculations and the black box computer process that the Catchment Management Authorities use in their offset calculations is secretive and disurbing.

The native vegetation act has many negative economic and social impacts, severely reduces peoples property rights and reduces land values. Landholders need to be compensated for this loss.

We note that respected people within the rural industry and local government leaders are calling for the Native Vegetation Act to be abolished and reworked. After working with the act since its inception we fully support their views.

John Beashel  
Bergalia

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