

Native Vegetation Regulation Review

Conservation Policy and Strategy Section

Level 12, PO Box A290

Sydney South NSW 1232

Submission on the Review of the Native Vegetation Regulation

I am concerned about serious problems with the native vegetation laws.

I am concerned that the current Review has ignored major economic, social and environmental costs imposed by the Native Vegetation Regulation.

For that reason, I reject the proposed Regulation.

I call on the government to move towards the repeal of the Native Vegetation Act and Regulation by re-doing the Regulatory Impact Statement properly.

I submit that the Regulatory Impact Statement must wherever possible quantify the costs of the existing and proposed Native Vegetation Regulation that were ignored, including:

- the difference between the value of land with, versus without the Native Vegetation Act
- the costs in terms of reduced productivity; and costs to recover lost productivity
- the number of jobs, businesses and industries destroyed; and people dispossessed of their farms as a result of the native vegetation laws
- costs in terms of rural depression, social breakdown, suicide
- the cost of all federal, state and local government salaries, taxation, superannuation, all leave categories, offices, cars, phones, mobile phones, training, travel, and accommodation devoted to promoting, making or administering the native vegetation laws
- the number of pages of rules and regulations a farmer would need to read to know what he could do on his own property and get permission
- the time and money costs to all farmers of compliance, administration and resource allocation
- the extent to which the Native Vegetation laws have reduced local council services including roads; the funds they would need to comply
- the number of people in the world going without food as a result of the Native Vegetation laws
- the high value of the principles of innocent until proven guilty, protection from search without warrant, the privilege against self-incrimination, constitutional protection of property rights, etc.
- the extent to which the native vegetation laws promote weeds, or are bad for biodiversity or sustainability
- the personal costs to the supporters of the legislation.

When I grew up here just east of Nimmitabel the roads were fairly ordinary to say the least. During the 1970's Cooma Monaro Shire Council had their own bulldozers , a D8 and D4 with these machines as well as their graders they did a lot of road work widening and removing problem trees from the edge of the roads . By doing this it allowed for better drainage as well as letting the sun onto the road. During winter these roads used to be 4 wheel drive only because the frosts would bring the water up and when it thawed it would become very boggy. Unfortunately our roads on the eastern side of Cooma Monaro Shire Council are fast returning to those pre 1970 days, because of the Native Vegetation Act and the threatened species act some of the roads now have a canopy of trees right over the top of the roads making them very dangerous to travel because trucks have to drive right up the middle of the road to avoid tearing limbs off with their stock crates or their left mirror. As happened to our truck recently after meeting a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

There are so many acts and regulations that local government becomes bogged down in unproductive paper work. Council carries out part 5 assessments that consider various environmental aspects as well as the weed content. Any of the roads that carry a high conservation value, council then engage a consultant to carry out those assessments.

It cost about \$5000 per year for council to have someone assess and zone high environmental area or lower risk zones. The lower risk areas mostly consist of pharlaris or various introduced weeds.

The threatened species act pose real problems as a lot of the trees I have spoken about are listed on the threatened species act. Another hurdle for local government is the archaeology, this often causes some grief. The roads act can override all other acts if there is a tree that is dangerous to the public. But we have miles of these trees.

Because of the volume of trees on the roadside the table drains are blocked with bark and sticks and tree roots as well as the pipes are commonly blocked with the same debris. Unfortunately when we get floods this causes major road damage as we have witnessed over the past 12 months. Where your government has had to find flood relief funding through the RTA or Roads and Maritime Services to restore the road back to its original state

NVA has personally affected us to the tune of \$1.3 Million dollars as a result of this we had to purchase another property to stay viable due to us not being able to develop our property "Greenland".

This has been a major infringement of our property rights through the green movement to gain control over all private land. So I therefore ask you to take on board these very urgent issues and repeal the NVA and its regulations.

John and Jenny Alcock



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