

LA & MC WESTON
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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.

Your faithfully
Leon Weston