



To: Native Vegetation Conservation Policy and Statutory Services Office

Fax: 9995691

SUBMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE NATIVE VEGETATION ACT 2003

I submit that the NSW Government should immediately repeal the Native Vegetation Act 2003 (Act) and its regulations for the following reasons:

1. The cost incurred by the NSW State's CMA authority policing the Act (which was over \$100 million dollars, including satellite surveillance) is a misuse of taxpayers money and has resulted in the CMA acting as a 'police force' and not a helpful partner and advisory service.
2. That money would be better spent providing soil and vegetation conservation services as was done in the past, whereby landowners and the Government agencies work in partnership to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.
3. The uncertainty over land management by landowners has gone on for too long and it has affected NSW's ability to encourage a productive and sustainable agricultural industry. Investment in the industry and its long term viability has been seriously undermined and this will have a last impact on how the State will take advantage of being a leading agricultural supply to the nation and Asla.
4. The Act has been implemented without any form of balance or compensation. Unlike the Commonwealth's Water buy back scheme, where water allocations have been acquired at full market values, NSW introduced sweeping changes to the land management regime without providing any significant or real compensation to those landowners who have been severely affected.
5. All the land in NSW has been managed for the past 60,000 years since human inhabitation of the continent. The Act as it has been implemented effectively has stopped active management of land which in many areas has had disastrous environmental consequences.
6. The North Lachlan-Bogan Regional Vegetation Management Plan was produced as a result of 5 years' work. This plan achieved 94% support in the public consultation phase and had legal review that determined it met the objectives of the 1997 Native Vegetation Conservation Act.
7. This plan will form the basis for a code of practice on soil conservation and vegetation management in this region. Informed by the best science available, with local knowledge applied to achieve the best sustainably management outcomes.

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