

Submission on Native Vegetation legislation.

For laws to function they need respect, and it is difficult to give respect to people who steal from us, which is what the Government has been doing, be it State or Federal as a result of “greenie” pressure.

I consider the current laws an attack on my right to inherit what my great grandfather established in the 1850s and my family has maintained since then and enjoyed the privilege of owning and maintaining the value of the land.

We have cut and logged timber, sawmilled and farmed, and there are more trees there now than when the property was settled, because trees are self regenerating (even when clearfelled or burnt out).

I cut timber with a crosscut saw before I was 15 and in those days we could, and did, sell sand out of the creeks and also gravel for local roads to the Council and could make money.

There is still plenty of sand in the creeks, plenty of gravel, and plenty of trees for timber but we cannot sell any of them without government approval.

We have a Development Application to re-open a gravel quarry before the Clarence Valley council. An EIS, costing about \$200,000. was submitted in December 1913 and there is still no determination – held up by various and numerous Government departments and their staff.

I am 76 years of age, having started working on our farm before I started school and still work 60 hours a week, and am being told what I can and cannot do on my property by people who never had a blister on their hand from an axe or shovel handle or know anything about managing rural properties.

All farmers are struggling because of these “green” laws and having to bear the cost of them.

Farmers should have the right to run their property as they see fit. If they do not look after them they are destroying their own income.

More and more government regulations are a huge burden on the country’s income producers.

We wish we could go back 30 years to when common sense prevailed.

The current laws are seriously affecting the economy of the country.

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