

Submission to Independent Panel to Review Biodiversity Legislation

We are 4th generation graziers at Canbelego in the western division of NSW and have been involved for the last 20 years in the governments process of environmental legislation. None of the resulting legislation is seen to be in the best environmental interests of our farm and certainly it's been very detrimental to the social and economic health of the local community.

We are sick of being engaged in "the review process" only to have submissions ignored or legislation written that further erodes our property rights and our ability to sustainably manage our businesses and the environment. We have been engaged throughout the long environmental legislation process and are sick to death of politicians who make promises they never keep and bureaucrats who pay lip service to our concerns but promote different agendas back in their city offices.

The NVA is some of the worst legislation, it was condemned by the Legislative Review Committee before it was gazetted. The NVA removed human rights of "right to silence", "reverses the onus of proof", the catchment management bill trespasses on human rights by its broad power of entry. There is discussion by civil liberties groups at the moment that suspected terrorists may have their right to silence removed and the onus of proof reversed but these were taken off landowners by the NVA in 2005. NVA needs to be repealed totally and these rights restored to landowners. Landowners need the right to manage their land restored and the government can pay just terms compensation if they want control of private property management.

Back in 2005-6 our community put together a local area plan to manage Cobar Peneplain grazing properties in the social economic and environmental best interests of the area. This was submitted to the NRC as a way forward for our community as the outcomes from the NVA were seen to be detrimental to all facets of the triple bottom line. This as with many other local area plans were cast aside and the efforts of all those involved discarded.

A cross section of the community (Landcare, shire council, Rural lands protection board, NSW farmers and landowner representatives) were involved in the production of this plan as well as qualified and well respected professionals – Geoff Cunningham B. Sc Agr(Hons) FAIAST

Dick Condon B. Sc. Agr FAIAST. OAM

Peter Milthorpe B. Sc Agr

Bob Wynne B. AgEc

We would like to resubmit this "Vegetation Management Plan For Areas invaded by Native Trees and Shrubs in the Cobar Peneplain" as a local plan for management of biodiversity in the Cobar peneplain area.

Wally and Rhonda Mitchell

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