

Fax To: Productivity Commission Inquiry
Fax From: Clyde Cook
Re: Native Vegetation & Biodiversity Regulations.

I wish to make the following submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry.

I have been on the land all of me life and worked it for the last forty years from. the age of fourteen.

Throughout these years I have improved the family farm by clearing which has enable me to rotate my cropping and improved pasture programmes. This has improved productivity. I have been able to improve my stock carrying capacity by forty per cent and my wool production by fifty per cent.

In 1999 the family purchased a neighbouring property which had minimal improvements and only twenty per cent of it was cleared country. The balance of the property was over run by eucalyptus and cypress pine as well as an abundance of regrowth of the same. In comparison to the original property the carrying capacity and wool production was less than half. The country was also infested by kangaroos, foxes, wild pigs and emus.

The majority of the regrowth was eight to nine years of age. I realised that under the current regulations I was able to clear this regrowth and had no other option than to borrow the money to do so. The alternative would have been catastrophe. I would have been left with a property of scrub which would be of no use to anyone except feral animals. The clearing of the regrowth has improved this property. The soils and pastures are healthier as a result. This has improved the biodiversity and sustainability of the property. Stock are easier to locate and we have less deaths as a result of better wild animal control.

Unfortunately land clearing regulations have forced me to leave large eucalyptus trees. I have endeavoured to crop this country so as to improve the pastures and control regrowth, however it has proven to be costly as there is lot of lost crop production due to moisture stress caused by the large trees.

I have been able to improve the value of the property by one hundred per cent and with further improvement of clearing larger trees could improve it a, further fifty per cent. The end result is better pastures, less soil erosion caused by large trees that have the ground bare for a fifty metre radius.

In summary I would like to say I find it mentally stressful that I am aware of what I need to do to have a healthy productive farm but I am unable to so because of rules and regulations placed on me by people who do not understand what the country responds to. It is absolutely necessary that we get a balance in this clearing debate.

Yours faithfully

Clyde Cook
NSW