

Q1d  
January 21 2004

Ms Michelle Cross  
Native Vegetation Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
LB2 Collis Street East  
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Ms Cross,

*Re: Our **property Management Plan as a submission**  
to the Commission in response to the Draft Report -  
Impacts of Native Vegetation & Biodiversity Regulations*

We believe that Property Management Planning could enhance landscape stewardship for Natural Resource outcomes of community benefit.

The enclosed property plan or landscape stewardship plan is proposed to deliver three major outcomes.

1. Build better relationships between rural landholders, Local Government, State Government and the community by identifying natural resources in the landscape and designing an appropriate management regime to suit a particular property's role in the landscape.
2. Deliver landscape outcomes that add value to the general community and ensure these are monitored and self-assessable, thus retaining accreditation of the particular property plan to ensure certainty of future planning for the landowner.
3. A platform of marketability for ECO SERVICES by maintaining an accredited plan.

Overall, achievement of a “win win” situation for both community and landholder, rather than a planning, banning and prosecuting mentality (to quote wife Beverley). The latter will only divide the community more and result in

great losses valuable natural resources such as unmapped vegetation, which is the vegetation currency in landscapes such as ours.

If you own freehold country which has trees on it, you are penalized as a result. On the other hand, if you cleared everything, you are in the white and are not even encouraged to put a little back by way of reforesting appropriate areas. ie: Steep and unstable country. We want to look after the whole landscape, not practice cosmetic protection.

My family and I feel that it is long overdue for government to work with people building bridges of understanding and respect. Our previous property management plans have been nullified by present legislation.

We have presented this plan in good faith to the minister's office as a self-help educating process which will gain greater commitment to sustainable landscape outcomes at a significant cost reduction to the country.

The accuracy of the mapping is another serious concern.

With (approx.) eight million dollars in the last State budget allocated for compliance & prosecution, land holders cannot be blamed for thinking they are like ducks in a shooting gallery.

Adoption of this plan or something similar would help to make landholders feel they are part of the future allowing for a united move forward restoring some hope, not exacerbating despair.

Yours sincerely,

Russell E. Turkington