

Graeme Harris
WA

16th February 2004

To the Commissioner Native Vegetation Enquiry Productivity Commission

Dear Sir,

Our family have been farming this property for over 45 years, and as I am a 2nd generation am very proud of our achievements we have been planting trees every year, have nearly 30km of wysalt banks put in and have a very effective 100ha paddock with a ally farming system in place.

We are very conservation minded and have participated and completed a State Land Care Mapping program of our farm and future plans.

Our approach to obtain information to clear this land (200ha) from an area of 400ha right in the middle of my property started in 1998 it was suggested, I put my request to clear in the papers so my intent to clear was published in the Geraldton Guardian on the 15th October 1999 and published in the West Australian on the 16th October 1999 as suggested due to 2 very poor seasons this clearing was postponed till December 2001 in which time it was cleared and it was only then I got a response from the Lands Commission and a Soil Conservation Notice was put on me that was well over 2 years ago in the mean time with this Soil Conversation Notice on my land I was not permitted to put my sheep in this area (in which sheep have been running in for over 45 years) and so my first big lose came having to sell 30% of my sheep frock (my biggest source of income in the past 2 years) from 1999 – 2001.

Having taken over the family farm in 2000 my brother and I had 6000 acres each my half had the 1000 acres in it to be clear. Having been band from using this land for over 2 years has cost me and my family dearly - net income lost from not been able to crop this land cost me around \$80,000 each year and with the seasons we have been getting this would have come in very handy and set my family business in an even situation.

Our accountant helped us with our budget last week and he informed use that we needed more land to be cropped, as we do not have enough to be a viable farming business, with the increasing costs and the drop in wheat prices are a real issue.

If we don't get the use of my land for the use it was purchase for by my parents 45 years ago to farm, my future in farming is very slim.

We are very community minded in Binu and Northampton where my family are involved in Tennis, Netball, Golf, Super Rules Football, Northampton Country Club, Northampton Agricultural Society, Binu and Binu Primary School.

We hope you can help us continue to farm in the Binu District.

G.K Harris (signature)