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SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC HEARINGS RE THE DRAFT REPORT IMPACTS OF NATIVE REVEGETATION AND BIODIVERSITY REGULATIONS

IDEAS CONCERNING COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS

- To remain viable farmers need to expand their holdings.
- I need to expand my holding. I have 100 acres of land I'm prevented from clearing. The government could buy my 100 acres then I could buy another 100 acres of cleared land close to my existing holding. Cleared farmland is selling cheaply at the moment. OR The government could *swap* me 100 acres of cleared land close to my holding for my 100 acres of uncleared land.
- That 100 acres in question would grow about 3500 tonnes of cane in a year. Let us say that I make a profit of \$1 a tonne per year, then my profit is down by \$3500. If the government compensated me \$3500 per year for that land then I could use the money to pay the rates on it and to keep it as free as possible of feral plants and animals.
- Farmers can claim carbon credits for planting trees on cleared land. I think they should be able to claim carbon credits on virgin country that the law prevents them from clearing. Native vegetation is better for the environment than a stand of uniform trees.

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