

Dear Sir,

first allow me to apologise for the late submission or at least I am hoping my interest is registered.

The NSW native vegetation management act has in effect has stolen 75% of our property. We have been refused a clearing application in the past on the grounds of aesthetic effect on the wider community. Which if I may add was an extremely long, costly, and exhausting, not to mention frustrating effort. We are obligated to pay rates on this land to the tune of \$2500.00 per annum. We must control noxious weeds and animals at significant cost. We share a boundary, 5km's with Kosciuszko National Park which makes both of the afore mentioned tasks challenging to say the least. We failed to attract one bid in an attempt to sell the land some years ago. We are unable to generate enough income from the land to cover the cost of "owning" it. We have made submissions to relevant ministers with little to no response. Such as the NPWS purchasing the land, so as to provide capitol for us to purchase established land. Greenhouse gas credits, Environment credits in the form of rate reductions, Salary as sredo rangers as such as is done in Europe and the US. Compensation for loss of the potential to generate income. All to no avail.

At the time of our clearing application the legislation changed three times. It has indeed and continues to have a negative impact on our and our communities lives. The land is not unique and is well represented within the park. Our environmental goals equal and in most cases as is with most farmers are better than most self proclaimed environmentalists. The immediate costs are not great, the loss of possible income generation (determined from the 25% of the land in production) over our anticipated working lives exceeds \$1.5million. To conclude we have been very apathetic for several years now and have borne the cost (along with many others like us). I am disgusted at the lack of support from the Governments and the wider community that is demanding these changes in farming practices, but do not wish to contribute to the cost of maintaining what they expect. We are the ones fighting the bushfires, controlling the weeds and noxious pests and we should hold more credibility in the eyes of the wider community in the management of our environment. We are not just whinging farmers, we also want a future for our children. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute, looking forward to some positive outcomes for all.

cheers. Russell Murdoch
Vic