

Native Vegetation Enquiry
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins St East
Melbourne Vic 8003

17/07/03

Dear Commissioner

It has been reported in the press recently that a request has been made to list the Western Volcanic plains temperate grasslands under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to protect its degradation.

What value has been placed on these grasses, is the value commercial, aesthetic or is some future use envisaged.

If the Western District grasses have a useful or potential commercial value there is no need to evoke the Environment and Biodiversity act with its severe penalties and humbug, all that is necessary for the grasses preservation is an educational program to inform the owners of the Western District properties the value or the potential value of these grasses on farms to farmers.

The Native Vegetation and Biodiversity regulations cover a wide variety of plants animals birds and reptiles which if they have a recognised value and could be promoted and farmed they would never become extinct.

There is a regrettable reluctance by many authorities to promote native species commercially despite the fact that they themselves receive wages or grants which are commercial and financed by public taxation.

No plant animal bird or reptile will ever become extinct if it has or acquires a commercial value and is farmed.

I trust that the practical application of commercial encouragement will replace the practice of penalties and prohibitions when the Native Vegetation and Biodiversity regulations are reviewed.

Yours faithfully

Gilbert Tippet

Vic