

Submission in response to Draft Report of Productivity Commission Inquiry into  
*Impacts of Native Vegetation & Biodiversity Regulations.*

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In my undergraduate days at the University of New England we were instructed that the key to agricultural survival in Australia was “flexibility”. Since then I have travelled widely through Australia and am now a farmer. I can only say that our lecturers were most accurate. The environment, [climatic, economic, physical etc] in which the farming business operates is far removed from that of the European scene. And yet, it seems that it is upon the European experience that many of the proponents of control of farming practices base their arguments.

With the loss of flexibility through the imposition of the native vegetation legislation and regulations farmers will be sent to extinction in many areas. The loss of the right to introduce, rapidly, new technology can not see our farmers continue to be amongst the most efficient in the world. If it is necessary to pass by a government department any wish to change the time lag could see the advantage lost. The farmers of Australia, just like our native animals and vegetation need to be opportunists to survive. This does not mean decimating native vegetation, and in fact many generational farming families are the nation’s most active conservationists. Our forbearers were aware of and desired to protect the native fauna and flora around them long before the “green” movement developed. It is these same families who now must bear the brunt of the impact of current government interference.

I would hope that the final report of the Commission will be more forthright then the draft.