

Parliament House
Perth

Boyup Brook
WA

26/7/19

To whom it may concern

Submission RE PROPERTY RIGHTS

I am very concerned by the erosion of farmer property rights. If we are prevented from clearing land or using ESA areas for farming purposes, farmers should be compensated as it is for public benefit. ESA areas have been inspected only as desktop studies. This is not good enough. In 2005 when ESA was legislated it was a 800 page document which only gave the politicians 5 working days to read and vote on these. It was rushed through and probably on purpose. So consequently, very few read it and voted for it without know the consequences. This is disgraceful.

Compensation has been given under the 1976 Country Areas Water Supply Act which would set a precedent. This act prevented land clearing in certain areas. In the past saw millers, potato growers and farmers etc under the Country Areas Water Supply Act have been compensated. If there is no compensation the ESA Act should be repealed. No other country would get away with this “legalised theft” of land. ESA areas in the metropolitan areas have always been built on – no problems, it only causes problems for farmers with loss of income and devalued farms. They are less productive and less sustainable. If farmers put in for permits to use or clear land they should be compensated if the permit is rejected – the government can fence it and buy it for the “public good”.

Peter Swift’s case is a disgrace as he didn’t even do the land clearing. He should be compensated for all the anguish it has caused him and the fact he has “lost” his farm due to government department decisions.

In NSW and Victoria, you get compensation for ESA’s so more precedents have been set.

Farmers look after a lot of native animals and don't get any appreciation for this – they can cause a lot of damage eg emu's. Muir corellas, kangaroos to our fences and wreck our crops. In other countries eg England they pay farmers to look after endangered species. We should get stewardship payments. How about looking after farmers as they are endangered species – other countries appreciate farmers and food security – not here.

Finally, the ESA Act should be repealed if compensation is not forthcoming and compensation should be paid for not been able to clear land. Any restrictions of land rights should trigger fair and just compensation.

Yours Faithfully


S Mead