

Congratulations to NSW Farmers Ass. for organising the protest which enabled in excess of 4,000 farmers and other rural land owners (many of whom were from the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed Valley's) to express their disgust at the immoral land use and financial restrictions forced upon them by the draconian Native Vegetation and Water License Regulations.

This peaceful but powerful protest was held on the lawn in front of Parliament House Canberra on Tuesday 2nd of Feb. and left no doubt as to the extreme difficulty many of these these wonderful providers of our daily fresh food were experiencing in their valiant attempt to struggle to keep what used to be a successful family business. Sadly we also heard from some who had already lost everything.

The MC for the protest was Allan Jones and I must say he did an excellent job. His comprehension of the plight of our farmers was amazing and one must ask oneself--- If a person such as Allan Jones can appreciate the dire situation these unfair regulations have placed our farmers in, then why can't our politicians, and if they can, why then won't they rectify the situation.

The media has made much of the aspect of land clearing, and the Greens continually quote extreme amounts of land cleared annually, so let me explain how this comes about. By the definition of Clearing in the Native Vegetation Regulation document, if you slash or mow native grass, remove or damage one branch of a native tree or plant, or simply drive over native grass or plants, then you are guilty of clearing. Sounds ridiculous I agree, it is however a fact and this is just one of the stupid regulations our dedicated Australian food and fibre providers must comply with in an attempt to keep us in Australian grown produce.

I am led to believe there will be another rally in Sydney on 22nd March. If so, I shall certainly attend and encourage every true blue Australian to be there also (unless of course you are content to live solely on imported food). These dedicated providers of food and fibre are in urgent need of our total support. God knows, they certainly deserve it.

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