

14th May 2018

Dr Wendy Craik

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Review

Dear Wendy,

I am writing to give you one example of intelligent people doing stupid things in the name of the environment.

Together with my wife and children we own and manage 17 properties totalling around 4,000 HA's ranging from irrigated cropping, grazing, hardwood and softwood plantation to native forest.

In 2009 we purchased a farm in Carlton River, Tasmania of 1,000 HA's comprising grazing and native forest. An application was submitted to The Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority (A Government Beaurocracy) for a Timber Harvesting Plan to be approved for selective logging (thinning) of the native forest.

This was refused on the basis that it was potential Swift Parrot Foraging Habitat. Now, remember this word as you and I are Potential Prime Ministers, Rockstar's, Popes, Rabbi's or Murderers. A very loose yet in this case damning word.

We appealed this decision to the Forest Practices Appeals Tribunal (A Government Beaurocracy) and the Forest Practices Authority had their uni degreed experts present all manner of evidence not limited to the swift parrot foraging habitat to justify their position. Not that it mattered as we were appealing a Government decision in a Government building to more Government decision makers. In short, we were fucked the minute we left home.

The refusal was upheld, we then applied for compensation as effected landholders under the Nature Conservation Act and after considerable time it was decided by the then Government Minister Brian Wightman a first time Parliamentarian and former High School teacher who grew up in suburban Launceston that we had a legitimate claim which was duly accepted.

We were then handed over to The Threatened Species Unit of The Department of Primary Industries Parks Water & Environment.

The lady who headed up this was Fiona Bourne assisted by Rebecca Pinto who both lived in suburban Hobart. We now existed to justify their positions.

This process progressed at a standstill until I decided the only way to progress it was to convince them that they needed me off their books. I called them at least three times a week and spoke to them like an absolute pig, uncomfortably using expletives at every opportunity. This worked, and we progressed.

During this time, I wanted to do an Autumn burn off. Just a cool fire running stop start along the ground but was told that I couldn't as it may affect my claim, so I didn't.

In January 2013 fires came through my land (The Dunalley Fires) burning everything to a crisp. These fires burnt that hot that birds were actually falling from the sky (including swans). After the fires it was absolutely vacant not even flies or mosquitoes, with the first thing back being the crows.

On 13/08/2013 we received our compensation after signing a conservation covenant. Which they changed from firewood collection from fallen or dead standing trees to only being able to fall green trees and limited to 100KG per hectare per year. I was confused!

If I were to fall a tree with 10 tonnes in it, it would take me 100 years to clean it up. But I couldn't do this as after 1 year and my first 100KG it is now a dead tree and I can't touch it. Their reasoning for the change was dead trees are habitat for bugs and beetles.

Now please remember the reasoning for the lockup. Potential Swift Parrot foraging habitat ie. Green trees! After I pointed this out to them they changed this to 100KG per hectare averaged over the whole area that now allows me to clear fall an area of green trees for firewood and average it out of the whole covenant area!?

On the 13/8/13 we received over 2 million dollars in tax payer's money in compensation for the timber value only.

What the Forest Practices Authority, Department of Primary Industries Parks Water & Environment and the Government have achieved

We now have any area locked up where 90% of the trees have been killed by wildfire with a fuel loaded 4 times greater than what we had in 2009.

Of the 10% living forest which is potential swift parrot foraging habitat we can fall a considerable amount for firewood and as a landowner who has suffered dealing with all of this shit!

If a fire gets going again, I'm going fishing. Let the Government gooroo's with their uni degrees sort it out as they've all the answers and the environment is the big loser.

There is no uni degree in common sense and people can be educated within certain parameters to obtain a degree in certain fields just as monkeys can be educated within certain parameters to travel in to space, but that doesn't mean they're not monkeys.

Common sense is not very common, let urban people manage urban Australia because the gap between Urban & Rural Australia is beyond repair. If the environment of our vast country is to continue being managed by urban people in capital cities, the environment will be the big loser.

Yours in despair



Arnold