

PROPERTY RIGHTS AUSTRALIA

“The erosion of private property rights is the single biggest issue facing the rural community. It creates uncertainty, stifles investment, job creation and threatens incomes and service delivery.”

Members' Newsletter

30th May 2011

Property Rights Australia

Conference Bulletin

Note the date, **Saturday, 25th June at the Club Hotel, Roma.**

Our conference program is taking shape. We hope to present a snapshot of landowner's concerns with this Labor government's administration around Queensland. With Anthony Watts and an expert team we focussed on AGW last year and if anybody still wants to talk about global warming and carbon tax we will have our in-house expert, **Dr Ian Beale** in the audience, who will allay any doubts people might still entertain in that area.

The three visitors from Western Australia to our conference last year gave added dimension to our common plight of **“administrative abuse.”** This year we welcome two visitors from South Australia.

“Rights Undermined” is the theme of this year's conference.

We were recently approached by a long time supporter, Peter Holland at Roma, to arrange a meeting this month with **Peter Manuel** and **John Darley**, a member of South Australia's Legislative Council. Peter and John organised a huge meeting at Strathalbyn near Adelaide attended by 1200 people, some from interstate, protesting proposed water regulations (placing meters on stock water dams and domestic tanks, monitoring consumption.) An organisation they have just launched, FLAGSA (Food Producers and Landowners Action Group SA) has aims identical to PRA. Their motto is **No Farmers, No Food, No Australia.**

I suggested they attend our conference and meet our members.

John Darley must be unique in that, as a former career bureaucrat, he has watched with horror the insidious influence of the 1991 UN Agenda 21 evident in all government departments. He also believes all “takings” by any level of government should be compensated in full in a timely manner.

Wild Rivers

Mrs Annie Clarke, Burke Shire Mayor, hopefully will acquaint us with the outrageous way bureaucrats are administering the Wild Rivers Act in the isolation of the Gulf and Peninsular, away from the glare of the media. Some of the information she has given me is beyond belief. She will be backed up by **Stuart Mackenzie**, of “Plevna Downs,” Eromanga, where he runs an organic sheep and cattle operation on 112,000 ha in Channel Country where many properties have never changed hands since settlement.

At a recent meeting, 100% of landowners and all the local Aboriginals said they were against the proposed totally unnecessary Wild Rivers declaration.

ERMP

There will also be a report from **Peter Anderson** on the Burdekin catchment's Barrier Reef ERMP. With the proposed hugely environmentally damaging proposal to put as many as five spaced rail lines to Abbot Point across flood plains from Alpha on prime grazing land, the reef plans are exposed for what they are – a cynical political exercise. A group of affected landholders has been formed to lobby the government to attempt to rationalise this highly disruptive proposal. They have adopted the acronym C2C, Corridor to Coast – Galilee.

Coal Seam Gas

We will have a panel of landowners to recount their experiences with coal seam gas companies. **Graham Clapham**, with a group of landholders has funding from the NFF Fighting Fund to mount a challenge in the Land Court to the company's EIS on their prime Brookstead agricultural land. Graham said it's amazing how the tone of negotiations has changed. The funding was obtained from NFFFF after representations from Cotton Australia.

Megan and Doug Baker, featured in Qld Country Life last week, have both worked for gas companies and are now experiencing mining as property owners near Dalby.

Neville Stiller at Guluguba has a 600 man camp placed just across the road from his residence.

Richard Golden, a grazier from Yuleba is passionate in his defence of property rights.

After introductory addresses we will have a forum to discuss the issues raised.

Coal Seam Gas mining and coal mining have intractables which we will identify and discuss with the people affected at our conference.

Our main speaker, **Ian Hayllor**, Chairman of the gas and coal lobby group, Basin Sustainability Alliance will not only identify other intractables, but outline landowner's *line in the sand* position on strategic cropping land and the artesian basin.

Ashley Mackay will make a contribution advocating a government department dedicated solely to food production and security, particularly the necessity for the retention of strategic cropping land.

Lobbying for Property Rights

On Sunday evening, 22nd May my wife and I drove through intermittent rain for four hours to attend an LNP dinner at Walkerston hosted by Ted Malone, Member for Mirani, for coalition politicians in town for the Regional Parliament meeting in Mackay. We intended to unobtrusively pick up our name tags at the door, sit in the back corner and try to work out what was going on. However, Ted had other ideas. Our tags were up on table number one beside Campbell Newman's Chief of Staff, with Campbell, the Mayor of Mackay, lawyers and canefarmers. It was a pleasant evening but my impression is, while miner's interests are well recognised, conflicting landowner's surface rights have yet to be properly accommodated.

The next day Peter Anderson and I, with our delegation to three shadow ministers, Andrew Powell, Andrew Cripps and Jeff Seeney got the same message.

We need to continue pressure to get the Coalition's proposed Act to amend the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 and a Private Property Protection Bill into law to enshrine our rights to "*compensation, payable for diminishing, removing or restricting rights.*"

Labor's repressive legislation and regulations, many of them only passed to gain green preferences, with no scientific justification may not be reversed but eventually, hopefully, reflect all carrot and a lot less stick.

As in Western Australia and two southern states a coalition win only means a more sympathetic ear and the Federal Minister, Tony Burke, can still exercise some over-riding powers.

Attached for your interest is a copy of the request for a parliamentary delegation.

Six politicians have been invited. We welcome their contributions to the debate. We will pass on any conference recommendations.

The Blogosphere

After a team of moderators, sympathetic to Property Rights philosophy took over Agmates blog site and rebadged it **Just Grounds**, we have built up a formidable tag team of members to vigorously defend our position on many subjects. **John Mikkelsen**, a retired editor and now freelance journalist with this team numbering at least thirty as backup has ventured into enemy territory on the left wing blog, the ABC's Drum Unleashed, The Punch and middle of the road, Menzies House. They have had considerable success on diverse subjects such as Global Warming, Coles cynical ban on HGP's and the plight of farmers under extreme environmental regulations. There are members in every state and territory in this team with **Dale Stiller, Rob Moore** and especially **Cate Stuart** leading the charge. It is a medium many of us have neither the talent nor the time for but it enables us on the land to directly engage and get a point of view to our serious detractors which they probably have never heard.

There is a slight chance John Mikkelsen will attend our conference including the Meet and Greet.

We may also have a tongue in cheek contribution from Ian Mott, a heavyweight in the field of blog site troll slaying.

To make this a successful conference we need attendees.

Regards

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