
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi,

I am sending you this email to tell you about a very sad problem we have been experiencing over the last 2 years.

I will explain below. I have tried to make it as short as possible. If you would like more information please contact me.

We purchased a large, over worked, fragile coastal property on the [REDACTED] of SA in 1991 approximately. The land is very marginal and basically sand. It had been farmed for many years. Some of the land had been sold back in the heritage agreement by the previous owner. Those areas are covered in trees, etc. No farmers in the district wanted to purchase this land because it was so bad. It had been for sale for a while.

We were young and had so much hope in everything. We bought the land with two other couples. We planned on moving there after selling our home. The others talked about moving to the land too.

The property included Sections [REDACTED] in the Hundredth of [REDACTED]

We had all 6 names on the titles because we thought that was good. Later when we had prepared to sell our home, had a baby, and got ready to move we decided it would be best for each family to have their own title to one of the sections. This was legally done moving just one family [2 people] onto each title. This turned out to be a good thing because the others had marriage failures and other problems/

We had a verbal agreement with our partners that should any of us want to sell we would offer the land to one of our partners. We also had an agreement to never farm or clear the land.

We moved to Lot [REDACTED] in the Hundredth of [REDACTED] in 1994. Our 'partners' did not. They stayed in Victoria due to work, homes, family, etc. We were asked to look after all of the land. We did that for the last 30 years.

In 2023 one of our partners decided to sell his land, Lot [REDACTED] We were in the process of purchasing it from him for an agreed upon sum. Then without telling us he contacted a realstate agent in [REDACTED] The agent contacted a farmer friend and the land was sold out from under us without even being told about it. He got more money than what he originally told us he wanted. For 30 days we had no idea who bought it.

A local farmer bought the land.

The land had not been farmed for over 30 years. When we first moved here it was so bad. There were sand storms and we would have to sit in our car for most of a day because it was the least dusty place. You could hardly see out of the windscreen.

Over the years the land got better. We enjoyed seeing the natural regeneration. The animals came back, little shrubs, grasses, and trees started to germinate and grow. It was slow but it was looking good.

We had people from one of the conservation groups and he walked all over lot ■ looking at the regrowth. He said the land was protected by the Native Vegetation Act and that because it had not been formed for 20+ years it could not be.

We were also given this information by Eyre Landscape management. The farmer was also told this by several officials including SA Native Vegetation in Adelaide.

After the sale we often heard shooting at night. They were making sport of killing the native animals. It was very scary hearing the gun shots at night and knowing what was going on so close to our home. I reported the shooting and they applied for and got permits.

We paid our portion of a fence that the farmer put in. At least now the young lads driving around shooting know where to stop! They tell people it is like 'Jurassic Park' Animals easy to hunt because they have never been hunted. Very disturbing!

The farmer claimed he was just going to put his sheep on the land. He lied. We watched him slowly over 12 months kill the wombats and kangaroos. Then he started clearing areas of re growth. I reported the activities and he denied it. He said he was only removing box thorns. He was removing some box thorns but lots of other native plants.

Then he started spraying! He sprayed and put in a crop over 2 days. The day he sprayed it was a very strong northerly wind. Our home is about 500-600 metres from the fence line. The spray was airborne and I called PIRSA. He denied the wind was strong enough to bother us. I know a strong kid and he lied again.

We sent photos of him spraying to Native Vegetation SA. They tried to call him but he would not answer his phone. They eventually got in touch with him. It was too late....he had cropped the land. He was given a stop work order but it was already done.

He was able to bring the crop in. He probably made a good amount of money with current prices.

We have not had any further information with regards to what is going on next door. We have made many enemies in our district because the farmer has bad mouthed us.

I called Native Vegetation SA last week because the farmer was chaining the stubble. The land is so dry with areas of bare sand throughout the recently cropped land. Native Vegetation personal told me the farmer is going to be able to crop the land. He has to fence off a small area and revegetate it. This is very upsetting.

So basically he won. He broke laws, lied, destroyed regrowth, killed animals, destroyed habitat, and more. He can now crop and continue to make money on the land while he is further degrading and destroying it. He does not care. He probably made back close to what he paid for it already. In another few years when it is completely destroyed he will most likely abandon it.

We are devastated and disappointed by the lack of support from Native Vegetation SA. We also think there should have been some communication to us about the outcomes. We live here. Our only water source is off of our roofs. Sprays and dust affect our health and well being. We also have an organic small, personal crop of garlic, a few olive trees for our use and organic vegetables for ourselves. These are no longer organic with spraying so close.

In our district we are the bad people for trying to stop what is going on....not our new, law breaking, lying neighbour. That is a disgrace. His action and what has happened to him [nothing really] give signals to others that they can do whatever they want.

We hope in the future actions like what the farmer is now doing on lot [redacted] will be stopped, fined and followed. Enforcement of laws to protect native wildlife and native vegetation is essential.

Our partner that owns lot [redacted] filed the complaints with Native Vegetation SA. We have been working with him but trying to protect ourselves from hate in this small farming community. His name is [redacted] He has been out to speak with the farmer and try to convince him to not farm it. [redacted] If you need his details I can provide them. I know he did the survey.

Thanks for reading my sad story.

Warm regards, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

