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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 4 December 2022 11:46 AM  
**To:** LLS Policy Mailbox  
**Subject:** Discussion Paper Native Vegetation Provisions

I am writing a submission to the LLS Act Statutory Review.

In the past 17 months my neighbour has progressively cleared land after having purchased a house on a 27 acre block zoned RU1 rural residential. The property was previously owned by a native nursery owner. Apart from extensive building without any permits and running a puppy farm of up to 100 dogs they have progressively removed vegetation by using 100 goats and 200 chickens on a steep slope of land. They also run a proxy boarding house without consent in the 2 demountable buildings. As a result of intensive grazing, all vegetation on approximately 15 acres has been removed. This includes Waratah, Gynea lillies, native orchids, casuarina as well as a significant number of old growth trees inhabited by powerful owl. We had a healthy population of Pygmy Possums, bandicoots, swamp wallabies, wallaroo, lyrebirds and other bird species including the glossy black cockatoo and at one time platypus were seen. Newcastle University is building frog ponds in the forest to protect native populations. Frogs in my creek have significantly reduced in number. The security fencing of the property has cut off a land corridor for animals travelling from the eastern to western parts of the McPherson State Forest. Since removing all of the trees and vegetation we had heavy rain that washed large amounts of soil into Kooree Creek that runs from their property through adjoining properties and into McPherson State Forest. They had 13 truck and trailer loads of building site soil delivered and all of this washed unabated into the creek. The water which was once drinking quality smells of sewage. They also have 6 pigs living in a riparian environment. The creek is full of soil. No one has been out to examine the creek.

As recently as this week they were removing large trees using the bushfire clearing legislation but the extent of clearing is way beyond the 25m of the boundary. They then began burning the pile claiming to have a permit but the pile was significantly bigger than what was supposedly approved. They have also built a large dam on the property with no permits.

I have a long list of emails to council reporting the illegal activities but Central Coast Council has been slow to respond. They notified them of their intended visits which resulted in the removal of dogs from the property for a week and occupants leaving the demountables. They have reduced the number of goats and chickens. Council told them to re vegetate the property, to grass and put in siltation control but this was not done nor followed up. Reports were also posted to the ombudsman and CEO at council (no response given) and the EPA who referred it back to council as it is not in their jurisdiction. I'm awaiting a response from Liesl Tesch, Tanya Plibersek and the state ministers for Planning and Environment.

It appears that the only way to stop this land clearing is for a class action by the individual landholders impacted by this activity. The bushfire clearing code allows for more clearing than is warranted and there appears to be no authority for approval of clearing, it is up to the landowners to prove the clearing is justified if asked by authorities. The owner of the property tells council they have permits for all activities but it appears they have approval for nothing.

We need a higher authority than the local council to be able to regulate activities. I also note Central Coast Council is currently in administration.

Please consider these matters within the review of this legislation.

In confidence  
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Sent from my iPhone