

[REDACTED]

From: emma gentle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 15 January 2023 4:48 PM
To: LLS Policy Mailbox
Subject: A thorough overhaul of NSW land clearing rules needed

Re: Part 5 A of Reviewing the Local Land Services Act 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

I believe that we must protect what lands we have left. The clearing of NSW Lands has been so extremely short sighted I can't imagine government bodies have looked at any research on what we are doing to the ability of the land to rejuvenate for future generations. It's becoming a strange situation whereby the evidence is now for all to see but poor decision-making on land clearing continues to be made, seemingly for short-term gain. Surely, only genuinely low impact clearing should be allowed as an allowable activity under the LLS Act.

I fully agree with the following points:

- Purported environmental safeguards in the Native Vegetation Code are inadequate, meaning that the Native Vegetation Code does not adequately manage the environmental risk associated with substantial amounts of clearing undertaken with limited environmental assessment and oversight.
- The scope of category 2 sensitive land is too narrow: Code-based clearing cannot be undertaken on category 2 sensitive land. While this provides some protection for environmentally sensitive areas, the scope of category 2 sensitive land is limited. For example, currently only 'core koala habitat' is categorised as category 2 sensitive land. In practice, 'core koala habitat' is limited in scope; any other koala habitat outside of this definition may be able to be cleared under the Native Vegetation Code.
- Only critically endangered ecological communities are off-limits to code based clearing. Other categories of threatened ecological communities (e.g. vulnerable and endangered) may be able to be cleared under the Native Vegetation Code.
- Set asides are arbitrary and have little ecological basis. The use of an arbitrary set ratio for determining set asides requirements under the Native Vegetation Code is not ecologically sound. The Native Vegetation Code does not specify that the vegetation to be set aside should be the same condition (or of ecological equivalence) and what condition the vegetation should be in.
- Maximum clearing caps have expired: The Native Vegetation Code includes maximum limits on the amount of clearing that can be undertaken under Part 5 – Equity Code in the initial three-year period immediately following publication of the Code.

Please stop clearing our ever diminishing resources. Look at and use available data to look at longer term impacts. I am against the land clearing laws that have allowed the recent destruction of NSW native forests and agricultural land.

Sincerely,

Emma Gentle