

[REDACTED]

From: Georgette Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 26 January 2023 5:19 PM
To: LLS Policy Mailbox
Subject: Native Veg. provisions of the LLS Act

Dear people at Local Land Services,

I write to LLS as a long-term campaigner, calling for reform in the NSW government's management of our publicly-owned native forests, and in particular the native vegetation provisions of the Local Land Services Act. I appreciate that our State government conceded to an extension of the consultation period for the Native Vegetation Codes until 27 January.

I have grave concerns about the rollback of strong biodiversity laws. NPA of NSW reports that this rollback has led to a thirteen-fold increase in land clearing, which has translated to incredible devastation of key habitats and EEC's, speeding up the demise of vulnerable wildlife species in NSW.

I believe the LLS needs to be far more transparent and act to ensure the wider community – your constituents – are made aware of any proposed dilution of conservation legislation, and any weakening of restrictions imposed on land-clearing.

I fully support the recommendations of NSW NPA, in wanting the current review to be suspended in favour of a more comprehensive review that acknowledges the severe impacts of the current regulations on biodiversity; a comprehensive review that would ensure no further species or ecosystems are lost. I am astounded that our State government continues to aim for a weakening of biodiversity conservation regulations, appearing to me, to be led by the timber industry, through NSW Forest Corp. and the backward-looking worldview of the State's National Party.

I also support NPA's call for the NSW government to undertake separate investigations into options for providing greater support for regenerative agricultural practices. Such practices can enhance vegetation biodiversity, soil nutrition and water cycling – all of which can support regeneration of forests, perennial pastures and catchments.

Lastly, but most importantly – I ask for improved, more effective monitoring systems, and far greater penalties for non-compliance of any kind. At the moment, I believe the 'slap-on-the-wrist' fines imposed for non-compliance and breaches are merely factored into the overall economics of clear-felling timber harvesting and land-clearing, and other practices that show little or no concern for the future of our country's fragile ecosystems and vulnerable species. If our State government, and LLS in particular, continue along the same lines of consistently weakening biodiversity protection legislation, then we shall certainly be leaving an even poorer environment for generations to come – poorer economically, socially, culturally and emotionally.

The scientific evidence is irrefutable – Industrial logging and land-clearing is sending our Koalas, Greater Gliders and Yellow-bellied Gliders rapidly towards extinction by destroying, fragmenting and degrading their habitat. Australia leads the world in mammal extinctions and State-sanctioned and taxpayer-subsidised land-clearing is worsening this situation. I urge LLS to be strong, really take a hard look at the devastation happening through inappropriate, rampant land-clearing, and ACT to protect what we have left!

Thank you for considering the points I raise in this submission to LLS.

Yours sincerely,

Georgette Allen,
Resident, [REDACTED] NSW