

From: Sarah Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 9 January 2023 12:21 PM
To: LLS Policy Mailbox
Cc: Honora Campbell; Sarah Bird
Subject: 4 Pines - Native Vegetation Clearing Laws Submission

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of 4 Pines Brewing Company (located in Manly NSW), we welcome the opportunity for public comment on the statutory review of NSW native vegetation clearing rules (Part 5A of the Local Land Services Act 2013).

I also request a meeting to discuss this with the Minister for the Environment James Griffin along with other local businesses within the Manly electorate.

We are alarmed at the rate that land clearing has increased since the implementation of part 5A of the Local Land Services Act in 2013 and implore the review committee to strengthen the protection of all remaining native ecosystems, as well as setting goals to reforest agricultural areas all over the State.

We are aware of the threat of a changing climate and believe there is a need for greater ecosystem regeneration to give us any chance of combating rising temperatures in the future.

As a B Corp business, we operate with all stakeholders in mind and do what we can to reduce our impact on the environment. We have signed a four-year agreement with Landcare Australia to plant 44 444 trees, plants, shrubs & ground covers annually.

The main message of our submission is that NSW and Australia cannot afford any further loss of healthy forests.

In the past few years Australian's have experienced apocalyptic fires, storms, floods, droughts, heat waves, wildlife loss and disease.

We have experienced;

- the driest period in recorded history due a total breakdown in rainfall patterns due to local and global changes,
- deadly heat waves and devastating fires responsible for burning over 13 million hectares of forests, and;
- Record flooding due to the combined effects of widespread landscape degradation and extreme climate events

During the fires in 2019 and 2020 over 3 billion mammals, birds and reptiles, along with numerous insects, fish and frogs were destroyed. Many more millions of animals and plants have been destroyed by heatwaves, dying of thirst, habitat loss, and starvation or flooding. This is pushing many of Australia's unique species to the brink of extinction.

In 2018 -2019 we witnessed a landscape on the total brink of collapse from record dry conditions and fires. In 2021 and 2022 the record flooding again raised the question of whether or not people can continue to exist in their current locations. The floods on the North Coast also totally decimated the landscape with unprecedented soil compaction and landslips.

In addition to the effects & losses caused by these major events the introduction of self-assessable codes and a flexible biodiversity offset scheme are tools which have enable the large-scale clearing of vital habitat for our native wildlife. Clearing rates in NSW have increased 13-fold, rising from an annual average rate of 2,703ha per year under the old laws to an astonishing 37,754ha under the new laws.

It is clear, the current policy objectives are not fit for purpose to protect native wildlife. While Part 5A provides some

safeguards for 'core koala habitat', it facilitates the clearing of other koala habitat. This contradicts the NSW Koala Strategy which seeks to double koala numbers in NSW by 2050.

A NSW Parliamentary Upper House inquiry (established in 2019) found the old land clearing rules played a vital role in koala habitat protection and that without effective intervention, NSW's most loved iconic will become extinct in 2050.

4 Pines Brewing Company calls on the NSW Government to establish immediate native vegetation reform.

We are calling for greater transparency over land clearing data; clear limits on clearing; mandatory assessments for clearing proposals; adequate mapping; monitoring of impacts on salinity, soil and water; and tougher penalties for compliance; and funding for adequate enforcement.

We urge the government to implement these changes as a matter of urgency. We must protect our native vegetation which underpins the survival of our native fauna, flora, and ecosystems. Native vegetation further provides essential ecosystem services, including water security, healthy soil, and improving landscapes for human health and wellbeing.

We need government supported policies which lead to the widespread protection and revegetation of forests throughout NSW.

Kind regards,
Sarah Turner

Sarah Turner

Environmental & Social Impact Advisor

4 Pines Brewing Company

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