

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Forbes [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 January 2023 6:21 PM
To: LLS Policy Mailbox
Subject: Native vegetation provisions in Local Land Services Act

Dear Local Land Services,

I am very concerned that the current regulation and management of land clearing has failed in its stated aims of addressing the decline of biodiversity and maintaining a healthy, productive and resilient environment. The framework has not ensured ecologically sustainable development.

The NSW Audit Office, the Natural Resources Commission and the official vegetation clearing figures published by the NSW Government all confirm a regulatory failure to achieve environmental outcomes and effectively administer the law. While the law has certainly reduced regulatory requirements on landholders, the balance has tipped significantly against ecologically sustainable development, with the laws resulting in a return to broadscale land clearing in NSW.

In light of the significant increase in land clearing rates, confirmed regulatory failures in implementation and ongoing concerns about the policy settings underpinning the Framework, it is clear that the NSW land management and biodiversity framework is not able to deliver the outcomes needed to reverse the long-term decline in biodiversity and maintain a healthy environment.

Native vegetation is of immense value to NSW and has a vital role in regulating our living environment. It is a key component of our unique biodiversity, it provides habitat for many native fauna and helps to regulate soil, water and weather conditions. Avoiding clearing of high-carbon native vegetation is an important contribution to mitigating climate change. It is evident that land clearing exacerbates climate catastrophes. Our laws need clear limits to avoid serious or irreversible impacts, to avoid

a continued net loss of biodiversity, as well as clear incentives for conservation stewardship and restoration on private land. A healthy environment is better for Nature, for humans and for agriculture.

I strongly support the recommendations made in the Report of The Environmental Defenders Office:

https://www.edo.org.au/publication/report-nsw-native-vegetation-law/?utm_source=Monthly+newsletter+list&utm_campaign=7c99cc8d47-Nature+News+-+November+2017+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b49266b162-7c99cc8d47-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&ct=t%28Nature+News+-+November+2017+COPY+01%29&mc_cid=7c99cc8d47&mc_eid=3642359ca4

In considering the regulations governing the clearing of native vegetation, I urge you to prioritise how vital it is that we protect our unique and beloved ecosystems, flora and fauna. Broadscale clearing and the destructive mining of the land may bring short-term profits for the few, but will rob and impoverish all in our state. Native vegetation is a treasure money cannot buy, a marvel human ingenuity cannot replicate. Please strengthen protections for our precious country.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Forbes, Landholder

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