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**From:** Janice Haviland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 January 2023 7:06 PM  
**To:** LLS Policy Mailbox  
**Subject:** Protect our Unique Coastal Environment

Dear Local Land Services & the Review Committee

Nature brings us peace in a difficult challenging world. We all need a healthy natural environment to rejuvenate.

Unfortunately, nature is in crisis. The State of Environment Report released last year by Minister Plibersek shows that we are on a downward trajectory of our environment. The minister stated clearly that we must **protect and restore** nature to reverse this trajectory. At the recent Cop15 in Montreal, Minister Plibersek committed Australia to the global '30 x 30' target, to **protect at least 30% of our land and our 30% of our oceans by 2030.**

We have two choices- do nothing until everything is destroyed and cannot be restored or do something **now** to protect what we have left and correct and set government policies in place that can restore nature before it is too late.

NSW waterways are vital, not just for agricultural security and aquaculture, but are important breeding sites for aquatic animals. They flush out into our oceans and marine parks, special refuges for NSW's vulnerable marine life and habitats.

Clean, natural, healthy flowing waterways are also important for tourism, water security (including the water we drink), and recreation, for surfers, divers, swimmers and recreational fishers.

However, NSW's coastal environment is under threat — ***lax native vegetation rules have enabled land clearing rates to skyrocket by an incredible 13-fold, leaving soils bare and vulnerable to runoff into waterways.*** We only have to see the increased logging of our forests to know that for every action there is a reaction- and in this case it is a negative one.

Chemical and sediment pollution reach our coast. ***Runoff from degraded agricultural lands affects many underwater systems, including reef, kelp, and seagrass. These areas provide food and habitat for marine life.***

**The NSW Government's Marine Estate Strategy lists *agricultural runoff* as a HIGH-RISK concern to our precious estuarine and ocean waters. Even species and habitats protected within our marine parks are not safe.**

For example, clearing of native vegetation for intensive blueberry farming is causing serious harm to the Solitary Islands Marine Park, impacting on nursery grounds for fish, including at Hearn's Lake and Flat Top Point.

All ecosystems are connected. Protecting existing vegetated lands from clearing is critical — they are our greatest allies against disturbed soils and runoff.

Clean and healthy waterways are important breeding sites for our marine animals which need to move between freshwater, estuarine and marine environments during different life-cycle stages like the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin.

I call on the NSW government to end runaway land clearing and fix out-dated laws so as to protect our coastal environments and help create safer, healthier oceans for our most vulnerable species.  
As a matter of urgency, we **must strengthen laws to prevent excessive run-off to protect our oceans and marine parks.**

Your sincerely

Janice Haviland Ruby Hardie Lucia Smith Kim Gambrill Katie Wynter Phoebe Laird Mandy Caple Noelle Faith