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From: lois katz [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, 29 December 2022 8:01 PM
To: LLS Policy Mailbox
Subject: Submission: Local Land Services Act - Review of Native of Native Vegetation Clearing Laws

I am concerned regarding the extreme clearing of native vegetation in NSW. The current NSW Government's weak vegetation clearing laws were enacted in 2016. Since these laws were introduced there has been a 13-fold rise in native vegetation clearance. This has resulted in a jump from an annual average clearance rate of 2,703 ha per year to a completely unacceptable 37,754 ha per year.

The fact that monitoring the various sites is insufficient makes it impossible to keep tabs on who is following the proper procedures. With extreme native vegetation clearing, of course, the result is more stress on our diminishing native animals. The NSW Parliamentary Upper House (established 2019) inquiry found that the old clearing regulations were very helpful in protecting our beautiful iconic koala's and other native animals' habitats. But, unfortunately, these regulations were watered down and now NSW fauna, flora, ecosystems, soil quality and water security are more at risk than ever.

Why does this matter? A healthy natural environment helps supports a healthy population. The old adage 'the canaries in the cage' rings true now more than ever. Humans depend on a viable natural world in order to live healthy lives. We need clean water and healthy soils. We must respect the rights and importance of our native animals and plants and understand that they are not separate to our needs. Biodiversity helps maintain air and water quality. Two rather important resources on planet Earth. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has estimated that almost 1000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in NSW. This is a sad statement on our stewardship of our environment.

So, what are my suggestions for helping to save our vital native resources? It's vital that land owners are restricted in how much they are allowed to clear. And, money MUST be allocated to pay for inspectors to visit sites make sure that people are doing the right thing and not flaunting the rules and over clearing.

NSW must take a firm stand and let landowners know that cheating will not be tolerated. Without proper inspections, the law is a toothless tiger. There must be a strong follow-up routine in order for there to be any success with keeping land clearing within the prescribed limit.

I am writing because I care about whether or not life is sustainable in our world. I care that my young grandchildren, and everyone else's grandchildren, can live happy and healthy lives and not be hampered by a depleted and struggling natural world.

Sincerely,
Lois Katz
Glebe
Sydney