



Carmel Tebbutt MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce

Wednesday, 26 August 2009

## **Review of Native Vegetation Act**

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, today announced a review of the NSW *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. The Act came into force in 2005 to end broadscale clearing of native vegetation unless it improved or maintained environmental outcomes.

Ms Tebbutt said the Native Vegetation Act had delivered an historic change to the way native vegetation was managed in NSW.

“Land clearing can do enormous damage to our environment, impacting habitat, soil and water quality. In addition, broadscale land clearing has serious implications for biodiversity and for climate change,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“The Act has seen the active conservation or improvement of over 270,000 hectares of native vegetation from 2006 to 2008.

“In the same period only 5,440 hectares were approved for clearing under the Act, and in every case, clearing was only approved if it was matched with offsets so that the net effect at each farm was improvement or maintenance of the environment.

“The central feature of the Act is a system of voluntary negotiated agreements, Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs), between landholders and their local catchment management authority, and so far more than 1,400 landholders have signed up for a PVP.

“This is a great indicator of the success of the Native Vegetation Act, but we’re committed to listening to all involved to see how the laws are working and if changes need to be made.”

The discussion paper on the review of the Act was released today to provide background and solicit submissions. The *Native Vegetation Regulation 2005* is not part of the current review.

Ms Tebbutt said the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) was undertaking the review in accordance with the Act which specified the Terms of Reference and timing of the review.

“DECCW is seeking written submissions and I encourage individuals, businesses and organisations to read the paper to have input.”

The discussion paper and further information about native vegetation, including a public register of PVP approvals, is available on the DECCW website at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/nvact.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/nvact.htm)

The closing date for submissions is 23 September 2009.

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