



Robyn Parker MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION CHANGES

The NSW Government has today published a new native vegetation regulation which will commence on 23 September.

Environment Minister Robyn Parker said the new regulation will deliver a common sense approach for landholders by lifting regulatory burden and delivering a balanced regime of environmental protection and efficient agricultural management.

“Many farmers found the previous regulation excessively complicated and ambiguous,” Ms Parker said.

“These changes are not about winding back environmental protection. The regulation will deliver real and practical differences, giving farmers the trust they deserve and providing them with advice and support to get on with sustainable farming.

“The new regulation will reduce the need for dual consents, facilitate good land and vegetation management practices for councils and landholders and reduce impediments to adopting more efficient agricultural systems.

“A farmer wanting to remove a single paddock tree to put in place more efficient agricultural systems will be able to follow a self-assessable code instead of waiting to get a property vegetation plan.

“The first of the self-assessable codes for managing invasive species, clearing paddock trees and thinning native vegetation will be exhibited in October 2013.”

Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources Troy Grant said the changes follow extensive consultation and the recommendations of independent facilitator Joe Lane.

“These changes address many concerns about the way native vegetation is currently regulated in NSW and will be further enhanced following the introduction of the self-assessable codes next year,” Mr Grant said.

“It’s important the codes are sensible and practical and there will be an opportunity for the community to provide comment.

“There has been extensive consultation in the development of these changes and we will make sure the farmers are engaged in the development of the codes.”

Ms Parker said the Office of Environment and Heritage and Catchment Management Authorities will engage with landholders and stakeholders groups in the development of the codes.

“The NSW Government is also looking to revitalise and modernise the laws to better deliver environment protection whilst facilitating sustainable economic and agricultural development.”

Further information on the Native Vegetation Regulation and the changes is available at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/ReviewofNVRegulations.htm>.