



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Summary of Submissions Report:

Draft codes of practice for thinning native vegetation, clearing isolated paddock trees in a cultivated area and clearing invasive native species

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1. Introduction

1.1 About this report

The NSW Government is reforming native vegetation management in NSW in order to strike a balance between sustainable agriculture and protecting the environment.

The Native Vegetation Regulation 2013 (NV Regulation 2013) came into effect on 23 September 2013. It provides for the development of Ministerial Orders for certain types of clearing. Clearing undertaken in accordance with the Order, are routine agricultural management activities (RAMAs) that do not require approval or a property vegetation plan (PVP) under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (NV Act). In addition to the draft Orders, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has developed draft landholder guides that provide guidance on how to apply the Orders. The Orders and their associated landholder guide make up self-assessable codes of practice for certain types of clearing activities.

The following three draft codes were placed on public exhibition from 27 March to 26 May 2014:

1. clearing isolated paddock trees in a cultivated area
2. clearing invasive native species
3. thinning of native vegetation.

557 public submissions were received, which were made up of:

- 418 form letters
- 76 letters/emails
- 37 responses to survey questions on OEH website
- 26 reports on field demonstrations.

This report presents a summary of comments raised in submissions and the feedback received at the field demonstrations on the draft codes. It is not an exhaustive analysis of every comment received nor does it attempt to provide responses to the issues raised.

This report has been structured as follows:

Section 2 outlines the key messages raised by stakeholders.

Section 3 sets out the methodology for categorising and analysing the submissions.

Section 4 provides an overview of the submissions received.

Section 5 provides a summary of the key issues raised for each of the codes, with particular attention to:

- general comments on the codes and landholder guides
- workability of the codes
- effectiveness of the landholder guides
- notification process.

This section also outlines feedback received on:

- the general operation of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and Native Vegetation Regulation 2013
- an online information tool on RAMAs
- the public engagement process undertaken on the draft codes.

A list of **submissions** and the **field demonstration reports** are provided in **Appendix 3: Submissions received**.

This report has been provided to the Hon. Robert Stokes MP, Minister for the Environment to consider in the development of final codes.

1.2 Background

Section 22 of the NV Act provides that clearing of native vegetation for RAMAs is permitted without approval or the need for a PVP. The NV Act and Regulation 2013 contain a broad range of RAMAs.

In September 2011, the then Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, announced a review of the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005 (NV Regulation 2005). In November 2012, Mr Joe Lane was appointed as an independent facilitator to progress the review of the NV Regulation 2005 and recommend ways to improve service delivery.

The Facilitator submitted his report in March 2013 and all the recommendations were endorsed by the NSW Government. One of the priority reform areas in the report was to introduce self-assessable codes for certain types of clearing activities. The report identified the following types of clearing as priorities for the development of codes:

- clearing isolated paddock trees
- clearing of invasive native species
- thinning of native vegetation.

The NV Regulation 2013 came into effect on 23 September 2013. Part 6 Division 3 of the Regulation enables the Minister to make an Order recognising specified clearing as a RAMA. Orders can be made for:

- clearing of invasive species (clause 38)
- thinning of native vegetation (clause 40)
- clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area (clause 41).

An Order, and its accompanying landholder guide, is effectively a 'self-assessable code' where the landholder makes a determination that their proposed clearing is in accordance with the conditions of the Order. While no consent or other approval is required, landholders will be required to notify the Minister for the Environment of their proposal ahead of undertaking the clearing. Clause 43 of the NV Regulation 2013 sets out the information that is to be provided in the notification.

1.3 Public consultation and field demonstrations

Clause 44 of the NV Regulation 2013 requires the Minister for the Environment to place a proposed Order on public exhibition.

On 27 March 2014 three draft self-assessable codes on invasive native species (INS), thinning and isolated paddock trees were released for comment. The consultation period lasted over eight weeks and closed on 26 May 2014.

Feedback was invited on the following aspects of the draft codes:

- the technical thresholds including any suggestions for regional variations or exclusions
- their workability
- the effectiveness of the landholder guides.

Feedback was also invited on the:

- requirements for landholders to notify of their proposed clearing using one of the codes ahead of undertaking the clearing
- NV Act and Regulation 2013 — this feedback has been provided to the Independent Panel who is conducting a review of laws, policies and programs on native vegetation threatened species and wildlife in NSW
- consultation process on the draft codes.

The consultation portal included a survey form that could be completed and uploaded online. The questions asked in the survey are at **Appendix 1: OEH online survey**. Alternatively respondents could develop and submit their comments in an email and attach submissions.

Field demonstrations of the draft codes were also conducted to gather feedback. These were organised by Local Land Services (LLS) staff on the properties of willing landholders. Sites were selected to undertake practical trials of the codes. Landholders from a range of farming operations and other interested stakeholders were invited to attend the demonstrations.

At the demonstrations participants were taken through the draft codes and it was then applied at a site to highlight the requirements of decision making in the field. The Central West and Murray LLS took a different approach to testing the draft Paddock Trees Code. The Central West LLS visited 18 properties across the region and had one-on-one interviews with the landholders. The Murray LLS also had one-on-one sessions with landholders as well as two field demonstrations with a group of irrigators and another with dryland cropping farmers.

Thirty-two demonstrations were conducted over 10 LLS regions (**Appendix 2: Field demonstrations**) and involved approximately **190 landholders**. LLS staff and consultants prepared reports on the feedback received on the codes and this is referred to in this report. The full demonstration reports are available on the OEH website along with the submissions.

Independent of OEH, NSW Farmers also developed and made available an online survey for completion by interested parties during the exhibition period. The results of the survey were included in NSW Farmers submission.

2. Key messages and issues arising from the consultation

A total of 557 public submissions and reports on field demonstrations were received. These are available on the OEH website. Submissions addressed one or more of the draft codes and/or the NV Act and Regulation 2013. A small number of submissions also provided comments on the notification process, online tools and consultation process. The following points summarise the key messages from stakeholders who participated in the consultation process.

2.1 Draft codes — general feedback

1. The conditions would allow clearing that would cause significant impacts.
2. The conditions are overly restrictive to be worthwhile from a production perspective.
3. The code is overly complex and would require a level of technical skills that casts doubt as to whether they could be 'self-assessable'.
4. Many landholders are concerned about bearing the risks of applying the codes correctly and would seek LLS support or apply for a PVP.
5. Concerns about landholders undertaking assessments adequately and ongoing requirements such as maintaining set aside areas.
6. Concerns about the lack of restrictions on how frequently codes can be used and potential cumulative impacts.
7. Concerns about the enforceability of codes.
8. A process is required for evaluating and reviewing the codes.
9. The draft landholder guides did not provide the level of information required to enable landholders to ensure that their clearing met the conditions in the ministerial orders.

2.2 Draft INS Code — feedback

10. The Code is complex and there are questions about the ability of landholders to identify Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and certain INS.
11. Regional variations or exceptions are required, particularly to the INS database.
12. Opposing views as to whether paddock scale treatments should be allowed in TECs.
13. The practicalities of the staging restrictions on the use of paddock scale treatments.
14. Increasing the frequency of cropping when using clearing type d) — Clearing plants at paddock scale with temporary or longer term disturbance to soil and groundcover.
15. The effective management of INS is complex and requires an integrated long-term management strategy including the management of grazing pressure.
16. Landholder guide — more guidance on identifying INS and TECs.
17. Landholder guide — more guidance on the land degradation assessment including estimation of slope, soil depth and texture.
18. Landholder guide — more guidance on the range of machinery that can be used under different clearing types.

2.3 Draft Paddock Trees Code — feedback

19. Both the farming and environment group sectors found the Code too complex for the average landholder to apply in practice.
20. Landholder capability to identify threatened flora and fauna habitat featured strongly in submissions from both environmental and farming sectors.
21. A more precise definition of 'cultivation area' is required.
22. Whether the 80 cm diameter breast height over bark (DBHOB) threshold is too large and should be reduced and/or determined for different species/forest types/regions.

23. The 50 m separation was considered by farming groups and landholders to be too high and would limit the use of modern farm machinery.
24. The lack of security on set aside areas concerned a number of stakeholders.
25. Landholder guide — more guidance on the identification of threatened plant species.
26. Landholder guide — diagrams and actual scenarios to illustrate how the thresholds and 'small clumps' conditions operate.

2.4 Draft Thinning Code — feedback

27. The Code is too complex requiring high level assessment skills.
28. The self-assessment process has the potential to allow over-clearing of vegetation including TECs and threatened species.
29. The Code does not account for regional variations or local conditions.
30. The technical thresholds (nominated stem retention, spacing values, clearing techniques) are not suitable and/or impractical.
31. The Code is not viable unless it allows pasture improvement.
32. Landholder guide — more guidance on determining vegetation formations, threatened plants and plant genera in the coastal zone.
33. Landholder guide — photographs of vegetation formations before and after thinning.

2.5 Notification — feedback

34. One farming group is opposed to notification.
35. There is uncertainty around how the notification process will operate.
36. The notification process is impractical and unnecessary.
37. The information being gathered through the notification process would not be sufficient to give authorities an understanding of the extent of clearing being carried out under the codes.

2.6 Online information tools on NV Act — feedback

38. There is support for these tools.

2.7 The NV Act and Regulation 2013 — feedback

39. Feedback from some farming groups and landholders involved in agricultural production was that:
 - the regulation of native vegetation is preventing efficient agricultural production and unfairly limits their rights to use their land productively
 - the legislative regime does not give enough trust to landholders to manage their properties in a way which protects environmental values.
40. Feedback from environment groups was that:
 - the existing regulatory regime is important in providing protection for native vegetation and there are concerns about self-assessable codes weakening environmental protection
 - changes to the administration of the PVP process might be more effective and not require self-assessment via codes.

2.8 Public engagement process — feedback

41. One farming group expressed the opinion that their views had not been listened to in the development of the draft codes.
42. OEH needs to explain how the development of the codes related to the review of the biodiversity legislation.

For detailed information see the relevant sections of the report.

3. Methodology for categorisation and analysis of submissions

The content of each submission was analysed and broken into categories shown in **Table 1**. Where submissions raised multiple issues, comments were included in each relevant category and considered accordingly.

Analysis across these categories allowed OEH to appreciate:

- the level of interest in each self-assessable code
- the concerns for implementation of each code
- any policy and community engagement issues.

Table 1: Review categories

Category	Scope
General comments on draft codes	Non-specific to a particular self-assessable code General principle of introducing self-assessable codes Level of support for codes
Invasive Native Species Code	Level of support Draft Ministerial Order (by section) Workability of the Code Draft Landholder Guide
Paddock Trees Code	Level of support Draft Ministerial Order (by section) Workability of the Code Draft Landholder Guide
Thinning Code	Level of support Draft Ministerial Order (by section) Workability of the Code Draft Landholder Guide
NV Act and Regulation	Pros and cons of current regulatory provision Biodiversity legislation review
Online information tools	Feedback on the prototype of the RAMA tool.
Community engagement	Was the engagement process extensive enough?
Notification process	The notification process and the information to be provided by landholders

4. Overview of submissions received

A total of 557 public submissions were received. The list and links to submissions (except those marked confidential) and field demonstration reports are at **Appendix 3: Submissions received**.

Submissions came from the following sectors (see **Figure 1**):

- individuals (502 of which 302 were anonymous)
- field demonstration reports (26 covering 32 demonstrations)
- environment groups (16)
- farming groups (6)
- local government (5)
- science/policy advisory bodies (2).

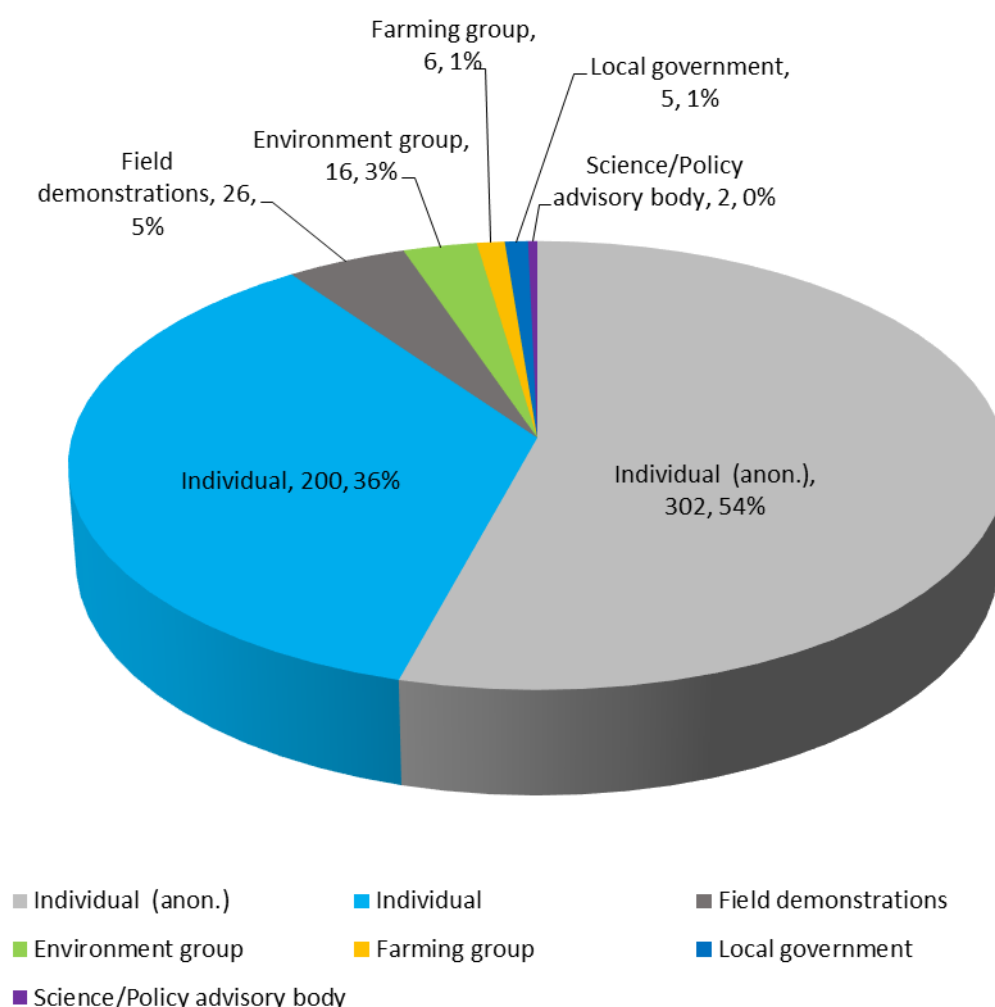


Figure 1: Overview of submissions received by sector

Of the 502 submissions from individuals, 193 of these were based on a form letter developed by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Sixty were signed and 133 were anonymous. There were also a further 225 modified form letters of which 127 were anonymous and 98 were signed. The 418 form and modified form letters together raised concerns on each of the draft codes.

The remaining 84 submissions from individuals are from people with a range of backgrounds including farmers, researchers, and other members of the public. They considered the draft codes from a range of perspectives from agricultural production to environmental protection.

5. Summary of key issues raised

This section summarises the key issues raised under each of the review categories listed in **Table 1** above. Given the volume of feedback received, not every issue can be included in this report. However, every effort has been made to identify the recurring themes and issues of most importance to stakeholders who have made a submission and participated in a field demonstration.

5.1 Level of support for the draft codes

When the submissions were analysed, the level of support expressed for one or more of the draft codes was recorded. Submissions that commented on one or more codes were placed into one of the following categories:

Supportive — those that stated support for the code(s).

Concerns — those that raised some concerns and/or suggested changes but were not explicitly opposed to the code(s).

Opposed — those that were explicitly opposed to the code(s) and/or raised several major concerns.

Not stated — those that made comments of a more minor nature including seeking clarification on aspects of the codes that gave no indication of the submitter's position on the code(s).

In addition to determining the level of support on a particular code, each submission that made general comments on codes and/or comments on a specific code(s), the level of support for codes generally was determined from the information provided. Where a submission commented on more than one code, the overall level of support was based on the 'lowest' level of support for one of the codes. For example if a submission made comments on all three codes and supported one, had concerns with the second and was opposed to the third code, the overall level of support was 'opposed'.

This is presented in **Figure 2**. It should be noted that the 418 form and modified form letters opposed the codes and have been counted once in this figure.

The environment group sector does not support the concept of self-assessable codes. On the other hand, while many farmers did not support the exhibited draft codes, there is support for self-assessable codes that provide an alternative to PVPs.

A breakdown of the levels of support by sector is provided in **Table 2**. The majority of submissions overall either opposed the draft codes or had concerns.

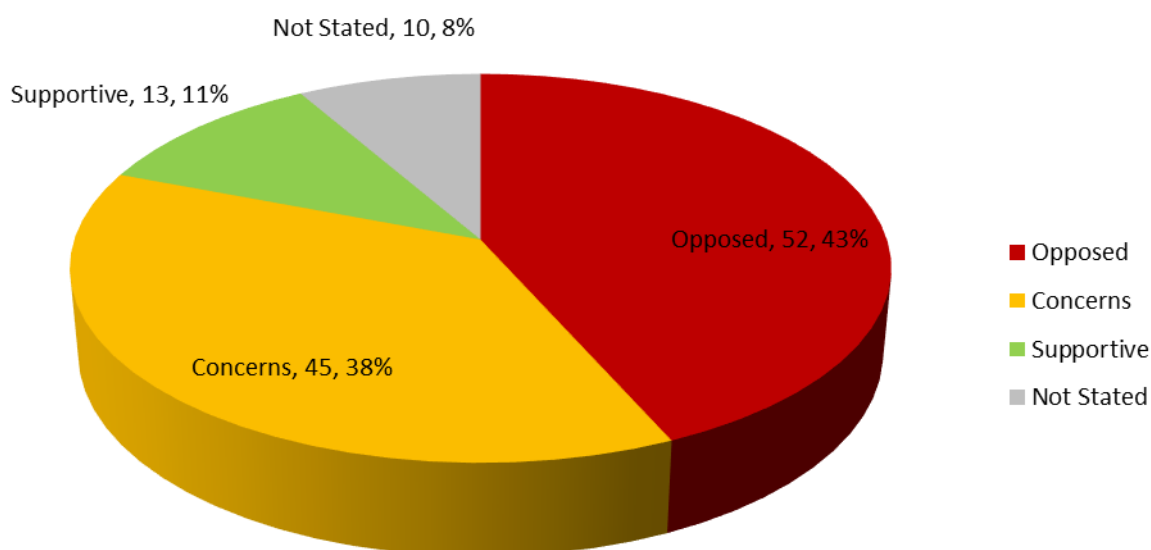


Figure 2: Overall level of support for the three codes

Note: 418 form and modified form letters opposed the draft codes and are counted once in this figure.

Table 2: Breakdown of overall support for the draft codes

Sector	Concerns	Not Stated	Opposed	Supportive	Totals
Demonstration reports	20	3	1	2	26
Environment groups	1		15		16
Farming groups	4		1	1	6
Individuals	19	6	30	10	65
Local government	1	1	3		5
Science/policy advisory groups			2		2
Totals	45	10	52	13	120

Note: 418 form and modified form letters opposed the draft codes and are counted once in this figure. Thirty-four submissions that did not make any comments on codes are not included in the above table.

5.2 General issues that apply to the draft codes

Several issues that were raised in submissions and at the field demonstrations apply to the three draft codes. These are:

- the codes are too complex and need to be simplified and some landholders are concerned about bearing the risks of not applying codes correctly
- the need for support from LLS staff to assist landholders to apply the codes
- the codes need to alert landholders to other relevant policies and approvals that maybe required. For example, local environmental plans may require approval for clearing, whether a cultivation permit under the *Western Lands Act 1901* is required and consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and whether a permit under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* is required
- several improvements are required in the landholder guides
- concerns from landholders with PVPs that they will be worse off than those who use the codes
- how cumulative impacts that may be caused by repeated use of codes will be managed
- ensuring compliance will be very difficult post clearing
- the need for a methodology to evaluate effectiveness of the codes.

5.3 Draft Invasive Native Species (INS) Code

Over 470 submissions made comments on the draft INS Code of which 418 were form or modified letters. In addition six reports were provided on 12 field demonstrations on the draft Code (one report covered 8 demonstrations). The level of support for the draft Code is shown in **Figure 3**. The 418 form and modified form letters opposed the draft Code and are counted once in this figure.

A breakdown of the levels of support by sector is provided in **Table 3**. The majority of submissions opposed the INS Code.

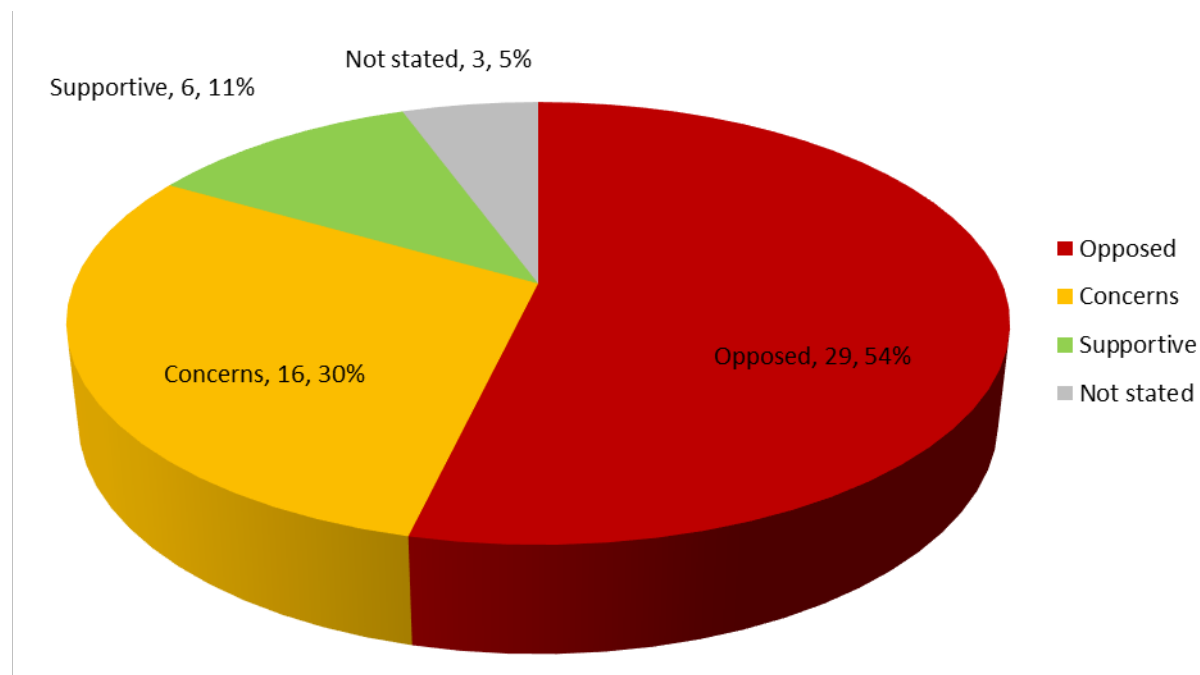


Figure 3: Level of support for INS Code

Note: 418 form and modified form letters opposed the draft Code and are counted once in this figure.

Table 3: Breakdown of support for the draft INS Code

Sector	Concerns	Not Stated	Opposed	Supportive	Totals
Demonstration reports	4			2	6
Environment groups	1		9		10
Farming groups	1		2	1	4
Individuals	9	2	14	3	28
Local government	1	1	2		4
Science/policy advisory groups			2		2
Totals	16	3	29	6	54

Note: One of the demonstration reports covered eight demonstrations.

5.3.1 Key issues on the draft INS Code

The following key issues were raised in submissions and field demonstrations:

- the Code is complex and raises questions about the ability of landholders to identify TECs and certain INS
- regional variations or exceptions are required, particularly to the INS database
- opposing views as to whether paddock scale treatments should be allowed in TECs

- the practicalities of the staging restrictions on the use of paddock scale treatments
- increasing the frequency of cropping when using clearing type 'd) *Clearing plants at paddock scale with temporary or longer term disturbance to soil and groundcover*'
- the effective management of INS is complex and requires an integrated long-term management strategy including the management of grazing pressure.

5.3.2 Draft INS Ministerial Order

What can be cleared?

The draft Order included these conditions:

Invasive native species may be cleared if:

1. *The species is a declared Invasive Native Species ...*
2. *The species is densely regenerating or is invading plant communities in which the species does not generally occur, which is causing decline in the structure or composition of the vegetation community.*
3. *The individual plant of each species to be cleared is equal to or less than the 'maximum DBHOB allowed to be cleared' ...*

Appendix 1 in the draft order lists 43 tree and shrub species. Thirteen of these species have a maximum diameter breast height over bark (DBHOB) size allowed to be cleared (20-30 cm) and stem retention requirements under this size when clearing individual plants (20 stems/hectare).

INS listed species

Three submissions suggested additional species be listed as INS. These were needlewood, bullock and other types of tea tree. One submission stated bracken fern and matt rush in the Northern Tablelands should be listed.

Six submissions expressed concerns about some of the species included as INS. Four did not think coolabah and black box should be included as INS because of these species' being characteristic of the coolabah and black box TEC. Three submissions expressed concerns about the inclusion of *Bursaria spinosa* (blackthorn) in those parts of its range where it provides habitat for the threatened purple copper butterfly (*Paralucia spinifera*).

Species is acting invasively

The NSW Scientific Committee and environment groups consider the second INS criteria: '*... or is invading plant communities in which the species does not generally occur...*', fails to recognise shifts that may occur in response to climate change and suggest removing this criteria.

A submission commented that the lack of a defined threshold for when plant density is considered invasive to be a major flaw, and another questioned whether some INS actually exhibit INS behaviour (examples included bumble box and spotted fuchsia).

Maximum DBHOB of certain INS that can be cleared

Several submissions considered certain species should not have any DBHOB restrictions, (examples given included wilga and yarran), or alternatively, if a threshold was required, that it be increased to 40 cm. One landholder stated, '*there is too much emphasis on DBHOB, and considered that delivering good outcomes should be the priority*'. Concern was also expressed that retaining large pines will perpetuate INS conditions.

Conversely, several submissions considered the 30 cm DBHOB too large for certain species including cypress pine and many Eucalyptus species. Research was referred to that found the large scale removal of river red gum and bumble box with diameter breast height (DBH) greater than 20 cm would remove significant numbers of tree hollows from the landscape (note DBH is measured with bark removed and is smaller than the DBHOB size of the tree).

It suggested the maximum DBHOB for these species should be reduced to 15 cm or limited to stems less than 3 m high.

One landholder pointed out the draft Code prevented the use of white cypress which, if allowed to grow, is a marketable timber. The landowner proposed an approach that would allow thinning white cypress to allow the remaining trees to grow into harvestable/millable timber. The landholder is of the view that a private native forestry (PNF) PVP would not allow this approach. The same landholder commented that the different DBHOB sizes for white cypress in the properties existing INS PVPs (20 cm), the draft INS Code (30 cm) and draft thinning Code (25 cm) is confusing and should be consistent. Having the ability to harvest cypress greater than 30 cm DBHOB was also raised at one of the field demonstrations.

Incidental clearing of non-INS if using clearing types c) or d)

Clause 1.2 of the draft Order permitted '*incidental clearing of non-invasive native vegetation less than 20 cm DBHOB up to certain limits when using paddock scale treatments*'.

One landholder expressed concern that this clause would require at least 200 decent sized trees per hectare or one every 7 m to be retained which would prevent grasses or shrubs growing and provide no economic benefit.

It is noted that there was an error in this part of the draft Order as it should have read: '*... permitted incidental clearing of non-invasive native vegetation **more** than 20 cm DBHOB ...*'. This error will be corrected in any final order.

How can the vegetation be cleared?

The draft Order provided for the use of four types of clearing.

Clearing must only be undertaken using one or more of the following clearing types:

- a. *management burning*
- b. *clearing individual plants with nil to minimal disturbance to soil and groundcover*
- c. *clearing plants at paddock scale with nil to minimal disturbance to soil and groundcover*
- d. *clearing plants at paddock scale with temporary or longer term disturbance to soil and groundcover.*

The form letter expressed concern that the Code allows clearing methods that would cause significant impacts. Another submission noted that incorrect treatments could make INS worse and landholders would require extensive support and advice from LLS staff. A farming group considered landholders would be able to determine the best clearing type for their property.

Management burning (clearing type a)

An advisory body expressed concerns that management burning would affect native understorey species and reduce biodiversity and habitat. It referred to high frequency fire being listed as a key threatening process under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Other submissions noted that no information or parameters had been provided on the recommended intensity of burning. They also indicated that clearing for fire breaks could cause significant soil disturbance.

Paddock scale treatments (clearing types c and d)

Thirteen submissions (including the 418 form letters which are counted once) commented on clearing types c) and d). All but two expressed concern about these clearing types. Particularly with regards to chaining, it was considered that this method could cause significant soil disturbance and impact fauna habitat. Some submissions considered clearing

type d) to be a change of land use and contrary to recommendations in the Joe Lane report and should be restricted to areas of low land degradation and require a PVP.

Other submissions consider these clearing types to be the most effective in managing INS and that the sowing of crops under clearing type d) should be allowed more frequently than three occasions in 15 years.

How much can be cleared and can the clearing types be used anywhere?

The draft Order included conditions on how much can be cleared and some limitations on the use of different clearing types. These are outlined in the table below:

Site characteristic	Clearing type			
	a)	b)	c)	d)
Proportion of INS extent permitted to be cleared by this clearing type	80%	80%	80% (40% x 2)	80% (40% x 2)
Q1. Non-INS trees and shrubs represent >50% of the total number of trees and shrubs	✓	✓	✗	✗
Q2. The vegetation is a threatened ecological community	✓	✓	✗	✗
Q3. The area to be treated is of low land degradation risk	✓	✓	✓	✓
Q4. The area to be treated is of moderate land degradation risk	✓	✓	✓	✗
Q5. The area to be treated is of high land degradation risk	✓	✓	✗	✗
Q6. The area to be treated is within 30 metres of a watercourse, estuary or wetland	✓	✓	✗	✗
Q7. The area to be treated is within 100 metres of a watercourse, estuary or wetland	✓	✓	✓	✗

Seventeen submissions (including the 418 form and modified form letters which are counted once) commented on this issue.

Up to 80 per cent of INS can be cleared

A farming group and some landholders considered the requirement to retain 20 per cent INS as '*not justified*' and adding '*unnecessary complexity*'. Another farming group suggested the remaining 20 per cent could be cleared in a third stage. The need to retain 20 per cent untreated was also questioned at one of the field demonstrations.

Other comments included:

- the Code should include limits on the area that can be treated
- the location of the retained 20 per cent of INS is important for biodiversity and the use of the Code should require the development of a basic property plan
- 20 per cent retention will be difficult to achieve when burning unless stands are specifically excluded by creating control lines.

40 per cent increments for clearing types c) and d)

Several submissions expressed concerns about this clause as it was thought to be uneconomical, leading to further degradation on untreated areas and was not necessary in view of recent increases in landholder capacity to establish groundcover. It was thought that the full 80 per cent of INS should be treated in the same way as clearing types a) and b). This condition was also questioned in some of the field demonstrations in central NSW where there may be smaller areas of INS.

One environment group considered that allowing the second 40 per cent increment of clearing to occur when the area in the first stage has 50 per cent groundcover could create a significant erosion risk and that the percentage of groundcover should be higher. Another

submission argued that achieving the stated groundcover recovery levels may require actively sowing native groundcover. Additionally it expressed that the determination of 50 per cent groundcover and 75 per cent native species benchmarks required to be met prior to stage 2 clearing would require supervision by the LLS or a qualified botanist.

Q.1 Non-INS trees and shrubs represent >50 per cent of the total number of trees and shrubs

One submission commented that if more than 50 per cent of older trees can only be cleared by burning they would regenerate quickly and that clearing individual plants would be extremely expensive. The submission also stated that leaving 50 per cent would guarantee a seed bank every year. However it is noted that this restriction refers to non-INS and not the age of the trees.

Q. 2 Vegetation is a threatened ecological community

Several submissions stated that no INS treatment using any clearing type should be permitted in TECs.

Q. 3 to 5 Land Degradation

Under the draft Code landholders had the option of using a State-wide map (Appendix 1 - Land Degradation Risk Mapping of NSW of the draft Code) or a self-assessment method for determining the risk of land degradation (Appendix 3 - Land Degradation Risk Assessment Method of the draft Code).

Several submissions and the feedback from field demonstrations considered the Land Degradation Risk Map was not suitable due to its scale and low data confidence and should be removed from the Code.

Some submissions considered the self-assessment method to be overly simplistic and difficult for landholders to apply without training. Field demonstrations also revealed that further guidance would be required for using the method including determining slope and soil types and proposed several changes to the method and risk categories.

Q.6 to 7 Distance from watercourse, estuary or wetland

One submission suggested that the distance where restrictions on clearing types apply be reduced to 3 m. Another submission considered management burning should be excluded in areas of high degradation risk and within 30 m of a watercourse. Another submission stated that landholders should be made aware that drainage line pollution, or potential to pollute drainage lines with soil or spoil, is an offence. Some field demonstrations found that the identification of third order streams is difficult in very low slope drainage flats in western NSW.

What other conditions apply?

General Conditions

The draft Code included two general conditions:

- a. clearing undertaken using the order must not result in a change of land use*
- b. all native groundcover, retained stems of INS species and all non-INS species be retained following clearing.*

The 'no change of land use' condition is also included in the draft Thinning and Paddock Trees Codes. Farming groups and some landholders objected to this condition.

Submissions from the environment sector considered that allowing the planting of crops three times in 15 years is a change of land use. An explanation of what would, and would not, constitute a change of land use needs to be included in the orders.

There was also a suggestion that grazing should not be allowed in treated areas for a certain period to assist regeneration of native vegetation. There was also a suggestion to allow the planting of introduced species in areas of high erosion risk.

Environment groups suggested an additional condition requiring landholders to develop and implement a long-term management plan for INS.

Conditions related to management burning (a)

The draft orders stated three conditions when using burning including — *'must be limited to the minimum extent necessary to clear the INS'*.

A submission questioned the feasibility of this when burning.

The following additional conditions were suggested:

- not allowing burning during fauna breeding cycles or plant flowering cycles
- reducing the proportion of the area of INS that can be treated from 80 per cent to 20-30 per cent and staging to reduce risk to fauna, soil degradation and fire escape.

Submissions also considered that landholders will also need advice on how, and when, to conduct the management burns so as to minimise impacts on wildlife.

Conditions related to clearing individual plants (b)

The draft order includes a condition that requires the retention of 20 stems/hectare of certain INS that are below the DBHOB limit in addition to all the stems above this limit.

Several submissions from landholders stated that this condition would limit their ability to control INS. At some of the field demonstrations landholders considered this requirement to be excessive and that the number of stems to be retained should be reduced.

Conditions related to paddock scale clearing (types c and d)

The draft Code included several conditions in relation to limiting soil and groundcover disturbance, limiting the number of non-INS cleared, the frequency and method of sowing non-persistent annual exotic vegetation, and the retention of non-treated vegetation on each 500 hectare area.

Some submissions raised concerns that the condition *'non-INS cleared should not exceed 10 per cent of the total individual trees and shrubs cleared'* provides a mechanism for gradual removal of all non-INS through subsequent clearing.

Several farming groups and landholders objected to the limitations on sowing exotic vegetation and expressed that the three in 15 years would limit its effectiveness in controlling INS and would not provide the return needed to undertake INS treatment.

Some submissions stated that the 20 per cent of untreated vegetation should occur in each 100 hectare (as opposed to 500 hectare) for habitat protection.

5.3.3 Workability of the INS Code

Many submissions from individuals and environment groups questioned the ability of landholders to identify TECs and INS. This issue also came up at most of the field demonstrations where it was acknowledged that landholders will require advice and support from the LLS to use the Code. The terminology for describing the clearing types was also considered to be confusing and unclear as to what type of machinery could be used.

Submissions from farming groups and several landholders considered the farming options to be too limited and make the Code uneconomic to cover costs of treatment. The majority of the respondents in the survey run by NSW Farmers also considered the Code was too restrictive.

At one of the field demonstrations the landholders indicated that applying for a PVP would be their preferred option given the reduction in waiting times, the security of a PVP and the avoided risk of misapplying the Code.

5.3.4 Effectiveness of INS landholder Guide

There were mixed views regarding the Guide. Some respondents considered it easy to follow and well set-out.

Submissions and the field demonstrations identified a range of improvements for the Guide including more guidance on:

- identifying INS and TECs
- the land degradation assessment including estimation of slope, soil depth and texture
- the scale and number of assessments required including stratification by land types
- whether landholders that have an INS PVP can use the Code and what effect it has on their PVP
- the range of machinery that can be used under different clearing types
- whether the Code covers nationally-listed threatened species and communities.

It was also suggested that the guide include a flow chart, checklist and a section on the differences between INS, PNF and thinning.

5.4 Draft Paddock Trees Code

Over 475 submissions made comments on the draft Paddock Tree Code of which 418 were form or modified letters. In addition, nine reports were provided on the field demonstrations on the draft Code. The level of support for the draft Code is shown in **Figure 4**. The form and modified form letters opposing the draft Code have only been counted once.

A breakdown of the levels of support by sector is provided in **Table 4**. The majority of submissions opposed the draft Paddock Tree Code.

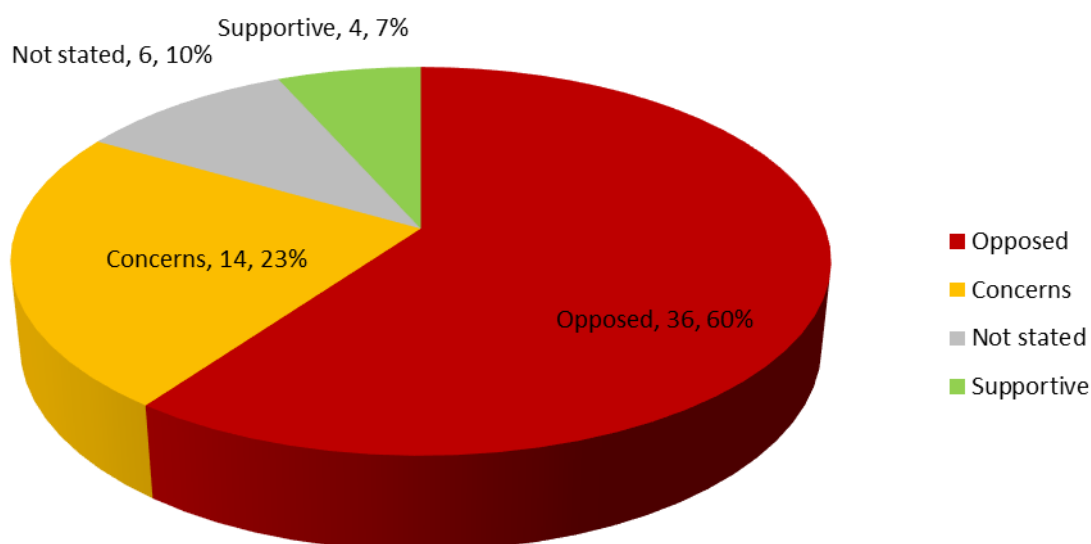


Figure 4: Level of support for Paddock Trees Code

Note: 418 form and modified form letters opposed the draft Code and are counted once in this figure.

Table 4: Breakdown of support for the draft Paddock Trees Code

Sector	Concerns	Not Stated	Opposed	Supportive	Totals
Demonstration reports	7	2			9
Environment groups			11		11
Farming groups	2		1		3
Individuals	4	4	19	4	31
Local government	1		3		4
Science/policy advisory groups			2		2
Totals	14	6	36	4	60

5.4.1 Key issues on the draft Paddock Trees Code

The following key issues were raised in submissions and field demonstrations:

- both the farming and environmental sectors found the Code too complex for the average landholder to apply in practice
- landholder capability to identify threatened flora and fauna habitat featured strongly in submissions from both environment and farming sectors
- a more precise definition of ‘*cultivation area*’ is required
- whether the 80 cm DBHOB threshold is too large and should be reduced and/or determined for different species/forest types/regions
- the 50 m separation was considered by farming groups and landholders to be too high and would limit the use of modern farm machinery
- the lack of security on set aside areas concerned a number of stakeholders.

5.4.2 Draft Paddock Trees Ministerial Order

What can be cleared?

The draft order included these conditions:

A paddock tree in a cultivation area may only be cleared if it is:

1. *an individual living native tree less than 80 centimetres DBHOB*
2. *located more than 50 metres away of any living native tree greater than the DBHOB listed in Table 1 [of the draft Order] and which is also within a cultivation area*
3. *a group of three (3) or fewer living native trees within a distance of 50 metres of each other, that in turn, are greater than 50 metres from the next living native tree that is greater than the DBHOB listed in Table 1 [of the draft Order] and is within a cultivation area.*

Table 1: DBHOB for each zone.

Zone	DBHOB
Zone 1 (Western NSW)	15 centimetres
Zone 2 (Central NSW)	20 centimetres
Zone 3 (Coastal NSW)	25 centimetres

Note: A map of the zones was provided in Appendix 3 of the draft Order.

The draft order defined a ‘*cultivation area*’ as ‘*an area that is cropped, ploughed or fallow or covered in perennial or annual non-indigenous pasture*’.

Definition of cultivation area

Several submissions and field demonstrations reports commented on the definition. It was considered that it needed to be more precise including how often an area needs to be cultivated, whether cultivation referred to exotic pastures where no tillage has been previously used, and clarification as to whether '*non-indigenous*' applies to both perennial and annual pasture. Some submissions also noted that the definition needs to be consistent with the '*no change of land use*' condition.

The 80 cm DBHOB threshold

Thirteen submissions suggested the threshold was too high and recommended it be lowered (suggestions ranged from 60 to 35 cm) to reduce potential loss of habitat for threatened species and native fauna.

Two further submissions indicated the threshold was too simplistic and ignored the value of trees below 80 cm DBHOB in providing ecosystem services and the need to retain some younger trees, given the health of larger trees may be starting to deteriorate.

Four submissions indicated the 80 cm threshold was fair, while three indicated the threshold complicated the Code.

Three submissions suggested this rule was impractical and recommended it be removed, particularly given the presence of the >50 m threshold and Appendix 1 of the draft Order to ensure protection of threatened fauna habitat.

At field demonstrations it was pointed out that guidance is needed for assessing DBHOB on multi-stemmed trees. There were also suggestions that the order should allow the clearing of trees greater than 80 cm DBHOB that do not have any observable hollows.

At the field demonstrations conducted in the Murray LLS region the 80 cm DBHOB was considered to be suitable for pine in dryland areas, but unworkable for larger types of trees, particularly box trees. In irrigation areas in the Murray Region that typically have a small number (5 to 15) trees to be removed but are generally >90 cm DBHOB, it was suggested that the gazetted irrigation areas be exempt from the 80 cm requirement in exchange for higher revegetation requirements.

At the demonstration run near Buronga an alternative approach using canopy size rather than DBHOB was proposed as this is considered to be a better indicator of habitat and connectivity values.

The 50 m threshold

Twenty-four submissions commented on this rule and opinions were evenly spread.

Submissions from farming groups and some landholders considered the 50 m threshold would not address the issues paddock trees cause for the efficient use of modern farm machinery. Seventy per cent the respondents to the survey run by NSW Farmers did not consider this threshold to be reasonable.

Three submissions stated that 50 m was not far enough to identify trees that were truly isolated and an additional three submissions stated the rule should be removed.

On the other hand some submissions (including from landholders) supported the threshold. Two submissions sought clarification as to whether trees on a neighbouring paddock and/or farm were to be included in determining the distance between paddock trees.

Table 1 of the draft Paddock Trees Ministerial Order

Fourteen submissions provided commentary on the application and useability of Table 1 of the draft Order as follows:

- five submissions stated that Table 1 did not take into consideration regionally specific parameters such as multi-stemmed trees including mallee or weeping myall, which are typically less than 20 cm DBHOB
- five submissions argued Table 1 is overly complicated and impractical, these came from both the farming and environment sectors
- two submissions recommended the removal of Table 1
- two submissions considered the inclusion of Table 1 was fair.

Concerns were expressed about being able to remove all smaller trees. It was also noted that the boundaries between zones 2 and 3 in Appendix 3 of the draft Order are different to the boundaries used for the regions for rural infrastructure RAMAs and suggested that the zone boundaries be made consistent to reduce confusion.

At a field demonstration near Buronga it was suggested that 25 cm DBHOB should apply in zone 1.

The group of three or fewer living native trees

Twenty submissions commented on this condition. Several indicated that it was difficult to interpret. Some suggested increasing the number of trees in the 'clump' or reducing the 50 m distance to 20-30 m. The field demonstrations also suggested that the number of trees in a clump could be increased to 5 to 10 trees. One demonstration suggested that more than three trees should be able to be removed where they occupy an area less than 0.1 hectare.

What can't be cleared?

The draft order included these conditions:

A paddock tree in a cultivation area must not be cleared if it:

1. *is an individual living native tree 80 centimetres DBHOB or greater*
2. *is identified as a listed threatened flora*
3. *contains important habitat for listed threatened fauna species that can't sustain loss*
4. *is located on vulnerable land*
5. *is located within 30 metres from the high bank of a watercourse, estuary or wetland*
6. *results in a change of land use.*

1. Individual living native tree 80 cm DBHOB or greater

Comments on the 80 cm DBHOB threshold are discussed on the preceding page

2. Listed threatened flora (Appendix 1 of the draft Order)

Most submissions from environment groups, advisory bodies and individuals (including those that submitted the form letter) expressed concerns about the ability of landholders to accurately identify the listed flora species. Most of these also considered the clearing of tree species characteristic of TECs should also be excluded. Some submissions suggested other species for addition to the list.

3. Habitat for listed 'threatened fauna' (Appendix 1 of the draft Order)

Many submissions questioned the ability of landholders to detect small hollows and the ability to enforce this condition. Some submissions also suggested additional threatened species. Other submissions suggested it be expanded to include habitat for non-threatened fauna.

Some landholders at field trials questioned the need for Appendix 1 of the draft Order given the 80 cm DBHOB threshold would protect older trees with hollows.

4. Located on 'vulnerable land'

The one submission that commented on this condition supported it.

5. Within 30 m from the high bank of a watercourse, estuary or wetland

Some submissions suggested that the buffer in all draft codes be reduced to 20 m to be consistent with buffer areas excluding the use of other RAMAs on protected riparian land.

Some submissions suggested that the Code should not apply in ‘heavily cleared’ landscapes. Different people define this as being landscapes with less than 10 per cent or up to 30 per cent native vegetation cover remaining.

How much can be cleared?

The draft order included these conditions:

A maximum of 200 paddock trees in cultivation can be cleared per 1,000 ha of landholding size, or part thereof per notification.

Many submissions raised concern over the cumulative impacts that could arise from multiple notifications. Nine submissions recommended a reduction in the amount of clearing that should be allowed per notification, e.g. a maximum of 20 trees cleared per 500 hectares. Participants at the field demonstration in the Murray LLS region also considered 200 was exceptionally high and should be reduced. Another submission recommended that once the maximum of 200 was reached, no further clearing should be permitted in the 1,000 hectare block for 100 years.

Set aside area requirements

The draft order included these conditions:

Clearing of paddock trees within a cultivation area must be balanced by the establishment and ongoing management of a ‘set aside’ area. The set aside area must retain the mature native trees and re-established native trees of the same species and in the same proportion as the paddock trees in cultivation being cleared.

For every paddock tree greater than the DBHOB listed in Table 1 [of the draft Order] that is cleared within a cultivation area, the set aside area must include five mature native trees: In addition, for properties with less than 70 per cent intact native vegetation remaining on them, there is a requirement to re-establish native trees. The set aside areas are to be established within twelve months of the notification date.

‘Set aside areas’ — general comments

Many submissions and feedback from the field demonstrations raised concerns about the lack of security for set aside areas including the lack of mechanisms for alerting future landholders of the need to retain and manage these areas. Some landholders at the field demonstration in the Murray region indicated they would seek to register a covenant on the set aside areas and considered that the areas should be treated as protected regrowth. In contrast, a farming group expressed concern about having set aside areas noted on the title of properties.

Some landholders expressed concern over the costs of establishing and on-going management of set aside areas. Several farming groups and landholders advised that there should be an ability to pay into a fund to purchase the establishment of set aside areas on other properties.

Some submissions considered the areas should be established before clearing takes place. Several submissions pointed out the need for the areas to be diverse (species and structure) and not rows of planted like-for-like species. Furthermore, opportunities to contribute towards any existing landscape scale vegetation management programs should be considered when locating set aside areas.

The retention and re-establishment requirements were not considered by some respondents to be adequate to offset the loss of paddock trees and the Code should not operate in landscapes with less than 30 per cent native vegetation extent.

'Set aside areas' — retention of mature trees

This component of the Code met with greatest concern from landholders, particularly from those in the highly cleared areas including irrigation districts. In these areas it was considered that the Code would only be viable if there was an ability to undertake a greater amount of re-vegetation *in lieu* of retaining mature trees. Many landholders indicated that they would accept a doubling of the revegetation ratios. Some landholders advised that the revegetation they had undertaken some decades ago that are now providing habitat should be counted as meeting the retention requirement.

'Set aside areas' — re-establishment of native vegetation

While some landholder submissions and feedback at field demonstrations indicated support for higher re-vegetation requirements *in lieu* of retention requirements, some landholders considered the ratios excessive (where the extent of intact native vegetation on the landholding is less than 10 per cent, 15 trees need to be re-established for every paddock tree removed). One submission suggested the ratio should be capped at 5:1.

There was a strong preference to remove 'like-for-like' rules, particularly when the vegetation community is either an open woodland or the remaining trees to be cleared are abundant cypress.

Submissions also called for clarifying if the re-established trees are to be planted and/or natural regeneration/regrowth. While the latter was considered by some to be preferable, this may require extending the period for establishing the set aside area from one to two years. Clarification is also sought as to whether the re-established vegetation must be located with the retained trees.

Set aside area management actions (Appendix 2 in the draft Code)

There were concerns identified regarding the use of RAMAs in the set aside areas or that further information is required on the clearing that is permitted. There were also some concerns on use of strategic grazing with recommendations to limit grazing to outside of spring and early summer. One submission suggested the action to exclude fire be re-worded to '*manage the area within appropriate fire regimes*'.

5.4.3 Workability of the Paddock Trees Code

The 80 cm DBHOB and the 5:1 retention of mature trees requirements for set aside areas were seen to severely limit the availability of the Code in highly cleared landscapes. Several submissions and field demonstrations considered that the Code needed to include variations for regional differences and some suggestions were provided.

The lack of security on set aside areas was a major concern for environment groups and many individuals. They also questioned the ability of landholders to identify threatened plants and detect small hollows.

Most submissions and feedback from field demonstrations was that the Code is complex and landholders would seek support from the LLS. Some farming groups and landholders, including corporate landholders, indicated that they would prefer a rapid PVP process.

5.4.4 Effectiveness of the Paddock Trees Landholder Guide

Some people considered the draft conditions were clearer in the Order than in the Guide.

A range of other improvements were suggested including more guidance on:

- the identification of threatened plant species
- diagrams and actual scenarios to illustrate how the thresholds and 'small clumps' conditions operate.

Several submissions considered that regional best management guidelines on locating, establishing and managing set aside areas would be needed to supplement the Guide.

It was also suggested that the Guide include a flow chart and checklist with the most limiting requirements at the beginning of the flow chart and checklist.

5.5 Draft Thinning Code

Over 480 submissions made comments on the draft Thinning Code of which 418 were form letters. In addition 11 reports were provided on the field demonstrations on the Code. The level of support for the draft Code is shown in **Figure 5**. The form and modified form letters opposed the draft Code and have been counted once.

A breakdown of the levels of support by sector is provided in **Table 5**. The majority of submissions had concerns or were opposed to the draft Thinning Code.

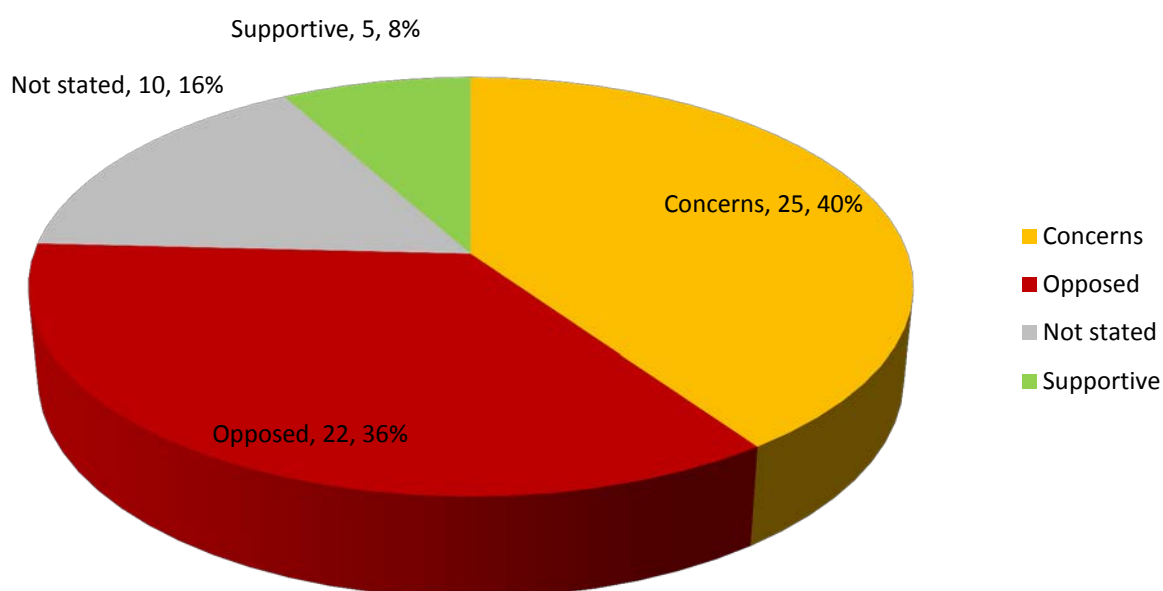


Figure 5: Level of support for Thinning Code

Note: 418 form and modified form letters opposed the draft Code and are counted once in this figure.

Table 5: Breakdown of support for the draft Thinning Code

Sector	Concerns	Not Stated	Opposed	Supportive	Totals
Demonstration reports	9	1	1		11
Environment groups	2	1	7		10
Farming groups	2		1		3
Individuals	11	6	10	5	32
Local government	1	2	1		4
Science/policy advisory groups			2		2
Totals	25	10	22	5	62

5.5.1 Key issues on the draft Thinning Code

The following key issues were raised in submissions and field demonstrations:

- the Code is too complex requiring high level assessment skills
- the self-assessment process has the potential to allow over-clearing of vegetation including TECs and threatened species
- the Code does not account for regional variations or local conditions
- the technical thresholds (nominated stem retention, spacing values, clearing techniques) are not suitable and/or are impractical
- the Code is not viable unless it allows pasture improvement.

5.5.2 Draft Thinning Ministerial Order

What can be thinned?

The draft order included these conditions:

Native vegetation can be thinned if it:

1. *forms part of a Vegetation Formation suitable for thinning in the relevant zone of NSW.*
2. *is greater than 1.3 m in height and have a woody stem between 0 and 25 cm DBHOB.*

Twenty-five submissions found the Code overly complicated, requiring a high level of assessment skills. One submission commented, '*landholders could be at risk of inadvertently breaking the law, as the codes of practice are complicated and presume quite an advanced knowledge of plant and animal species*'.

Several submissions referred to the threshold limit of 25 cm DBHOB and it was discussed at the field demonstrations. Many people thought that this threshold should be increased to 30 cm DBHOB. Conversely, there were some who considered it should be reduced to 20 cm either State-wide or in Western NSW.

The use of vegetation formations also received a lot of comments. Several submissions considered that formations are too broad given the variability of vegetation types within each formation. Some submissions considered forested wetlands should be excluded. Other submissions recommended that the Code include the sub-formations with a grassy understorey that could be suited to thinning.

What can't be thinned?

The draft order included these conditions:

Native vegetation must not be thinned if it:

3. *is a tree or woody shrub with a stem diameter greater than 25 cm DBHOB*
4. *is a threatened tree or woody shrub species*
5. *is located on areas classified as vulnerable land classified as either steep or highly erodible land or special category land*
6. *is located on visibly rocky areas, skeletal soils, dune fields or lunettes*
7. *is any tree or woody shrub species in the Zone 3 of NSW from outside the following Genera: Acacia, Allocasuarina, Angophora, Callitris, Casuarina, Corymbia, Eucalyptus and Melaleuca.*

As indicated above there were several submissions recommending either increasing or decreasing the 25 cm DBHOB threshold.

Many submissions questioned the ability of landholders to identify threatened plant species. Furthermore, there was a widely held view that the Code should not allow thinning in TECs.

One submission identified that 75 per cent of the coastal zone is mapped as vulnerable land and recommended this condition be removed. Other submissions suggested that an alternative method should be developed for assessing the vulnerability of an area of land.

A submission from an environment group stated *'the list of genera that can be thinned in coastal areas is too broad'*. However, participants at a field demonstration in the North Coast LLS region considered the species like brush box and turpentine should be included. A submission from a farming group recommended the *Leptospermum* genera also be added.

How much can be thinned?

The draft order included these conditions:

8. *all thinned areas must retain a stem density greater than or equal to the nominated stem density value per hectare for the 0-25 cm DBHOB size class in suitable Vegetation Formations*
9. *maximum areas that could be thinned per notification are set for the Zone 3 (up to 300 ha), Zone 2 (up to 1,000 ha) and Zone 1 (up to 1,500 ha) of NSW (see map at appendix 5 [of the draft Order]).*

There were many submissions and a lot of feedback from field demonstrations on the nominated stems densities of stems less than 25 cm DBHOB that would need to be retained following thinning. Several farming groups and landholders considered these densities would severely limit pasture production. There were also submissions from ecologists who considered the densities too high for returning the vegetation to a *'benchmark'* condition.

At a demonstration site in the North West LLS region, participants indicated that the retention densities would not increase pasture productivity nor did they support the spacing effect option. Similarly at a demonstration site with river red gum in the Murray Region, the 150 stems/hectare was considered too high and should be reduced. Participants at another demonstration suggested that the order include offset/set aside areas as an alternative to meeting stem retention requirements.

Some submissions requested that the stems greater than 25 cm DBHOB should be counted towards reaching these densities. Clarification was also sought as to whether stems less than 1.3 m could be counted.

Concerns about whether the mosaic option for retaining the nominated number of stems would achieve the aim of the order to return the vegetation to its *'natural structure'* were raised in several submissions. Other submissions indicated that clarification is required as to whether the clumping of stems using this option is over the whole area being thinned or on a per hectare basis. Some submitters preferred being able to clump the number of trees required for several hectares as opposed to being limited to clumping on a per hectare basis.

The maximum area to be thinned within geographical zones was also identified in submissions and at field demonstrations. Generally the view was that the areas were too high, particularly in zones 2 (central NSW) and 3 (coastal NSW). At a demonstration in the North Coast LLS region, it was suggested that the limits should be expressed as a proportion of landholdings rather than as areas.

There was also concern expressed about the potential cumulative impacts from the Code given there is no restrictions on the number and timing of notifications and some submissions suggested including limits on how frequently the Code can be applied.

What other conditions apply?

The draft Order included these conditions:

10. *in riparian areas (i.e. within 30 m from the observed bank of a watercourse, estuary or wetland), thinning must only be undertaken with 'no disturbance' to soil, groundcover and non-target plants*

11. *in all other areas, thinning must only be undertaken with 'minimal disturbance' to soil, groundcover and non-target plants*
12. *thinning must not occur on discrete patches of vegetation less than 1 hectare in size that are further than 100 metres from an adjoining remnant patch of vegetation*
13. *cut stems or debris must not be stacked around or against retained mature trees or woody shrubs*
14. *thinning must not occur with the use of chaining or roping methods*
15. *thinning must not be undertaken for the purposes of commercial Private Native Forestry (PNF).*

The conditions in relation to thinning in riparian and other areas (conditions 10 and 11 above) were commented upon in several submissions and field demonstrations. Landholders considered '*no disturbance*' could be problematic and impractical. Avoiding any disturbance to non-target plants is not feasible. There was consensus that there needs to be more explanation of the criteria for achieving '*no disturbance*' and '*minimal disturbance*', suitable thinning methods and reference to best management practice. Many submissions considered the use of bulldozers would cause more than '*minimal disturbance*'.

There were also calls to reduce the size of riparian areas to 20 m to be consistent with the protected streams category of vulnerable lands. Submissions from environment groups considered that any thinning in riparian areas should be excluded from the Code.

At several field demonstrations, it was suggested there should be the ability to sow grass species and/or exotic plants for a period of one to two years after thinning for pasture/soil protection and/or to stimulate regeneration of native grasses.

In relation to the discrete patches condition (condition 12 above) it was suggested that the minimum size should also be provided.

In relation to the condition on not stacking debris (condition 13) one submission queried where the debris could be stacked given the number of stems that need to be retained. Other submissions indicated it should be retained on the ground where it fell to protect soils and provide habitat.

The condition not allowing chaining or roping (condition 14) attracted several comments. Several submissions and discussions at some demonstrations considered chaining would cause less disturbance than bulldozers and should be allowed. On the other hand, environment groups considered only poisoning and individual tree cutting should be permitted under the Code.

Some submissions considered more explanation is needed on situations where a PNF PVP would be required.

At one of the demonstrations in the North West LLS region, an additional condition to maintain species diversity was proposed.

5.5.3 Workability of the Thinning Code

Many submissions and feedback at field demonstrations indicated that the Code was not workable due to the high level of assessment skills that would be required to determine vegetation formations, and identify threatened plants and plant genera. Furthermore, it was thought that the Code was ambiguous and provided insufficient detail and explanation of stem retention options and suitable thinning methods which meant that landholders could easily be in breach of the Code. Some respondents considered that the Code did not adequately address soil health.

Conversely some submissions indicated the Code would provide a sensible approach, provided it prevented the use of bulldozers.

At several of the field demonstrations participants thought that the financial outlay required to undertake the thinning would not be returned for many years and would limit the number of

landholders who would use the Code. Those that would use it, indicated that they would seek support from their LLS. Some landholders indicated they would prefer a PVP for security and peace of mind.

5.5.4 Draft Thinning Landholder Guide

Several suggestions for improving the Guide were made in submissions and at field demonstrations including:

- more guidance on determining vegetation formations, threatened plants and plant genera in the coastal zone
- photographs of vegetation formations before and after thinning
- online access to mapped vegetation formations and vulnerable land
- illustrations of how to determine stem densities and applying the stem retention options
- a flowchart at the front of the Code/Guidelines
- information about the differences between INS, PNF and thinning
- definitions of key terms like '*minimal disturbance*' and explanation of methods that can be used.

5.6 Notification

Clause 43 of the NV Regulation 2013 requires landholders to give the Minister for the Environment notice of their intention to clear in accordance with a code 14 days before the clearing is carried out. The clause sets out the information that is to be provided in the notification.

The notification process and requirements was commented on in 37 submissions and discussed at several field demonstrations. Key themes are identified below.

Opposition to notification

A farming group reported an in-principle rejection of the concept of notification on the grounds that it was inconsistent with self-assessment. A similar view was put forward by an individual:

Notification requirements are to be put in place in relation to the proposed implementation of the Codes. If complied with, they do not give the protection and certainty to which the landholder is entitled. There is already in the community a high degree of suspicion, resistance and distrust associated with the proposed implementation of the Codes ... some landholders may well simply chose to ignore them entirely. A \$200.00 penalty fee is hardly a disincentive in the event the activity is not notified but once discovered is not in breach.

On the other hand, there was not universal opposition to notification. The participants at the field demonstrations in the Northern Tablelands and Murray LLS regions generally considered the notification requirements fair and reasonable.

Insufficient record of clearing undertaken

Several submissions from the environment sector expressed concern that landholders would not be required to report on the actual area of clearing as this would make it difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of the codes and their environmental impact.

Other submissions made reference to the absence of information concerning notification, they stated that the landholder guide's reference to information that 'may' be required is uncertain and implies notification is not mandatory.

Requirement to notify at least 14 days before clearing

Six submissions and feedback from some of the field demonstrations considered the requirement to be impractical and that landholders needed more flexibility to clear when the right environmental conditions arise. One stated:

The requirement for notification to the LLS (which is a government agency) is an unnecessary imposition. It is necessary to understand the practical application of this provision at farm level. Farmers are getting less and less time to carry out their day to day work and time for vegetation management is something that has to be 'fitted in' as time permits. Vegetation thinning needs to be carried out under the ideal conditions (not too wet or too dry).

Additional information should be required

An environment group referred to there being 'no detail on record keeping requirements to assist landholders in showing they followed the code with due diligence'. It considered landholders should be required to maintain written and photographic records of their checking procedure and that these records be available for inspection by LLS staff and compliance officers on request. This suggestion was echoed in submissions from two local councils.

An environment group considered that a list of all species cleared under the paddock trees and thinning codes be provided as part of notification (as opposed to just threatened species). They also suggested that information on the set aside areas including the vegetation composition and how the area meets the set aside requirements.

In contrast, one submission stated information to be provided should be limited to the information on the locality of the property, owner, species being treated, and clearing type/method being undertaken.

No limits on the number of notifications and clearing events

A number of submissions also suggested restrictions on the number of notifications which could be made in a given year so as to manage cumulative impacts. A joint submission from the peak environment groups noted:

Notification requirements do not prevent broad-scale clearing or ensure consideration of cumulative impacts and there are no provisions to prevent multiple application which have the effect of broad scale clearing (without assessment being completed).

Insufficient clarity on LLS involvement

Submissions made by environment groups expressed concern that the absence of a formal requirement for landholders to consult LLS would create risks of illegal clearing. This reflected a wider concern that the self-assessment aspect of the codes creates high compliance risks.

A farming group was concerned that LLS extension following notification would not be consistently provided but, where it was, would amount to a de facto approval which is contrary to the purpose of the codes. De facto approvals would also blur the line between extension and auditing/monitoring which could affect trust.

The NSW Scientific Committee expressed a 'strong belief that Local Land Services should play a substantial role in helping landholders to comply with the regulations, rather than simply allowing landholders to notify them of their intentions'.

Other issues

NSW Farmers commented that it was unclear how the information provided by notification would be used. Participants at some of the field demonstrations advised that while they

would be willing to provide the information to the LLS, they have concerns about providing it to OEH.

The report from a field demonstration in the Murray LLS region noted concerns about notifications not being recorded on title. It was said this could create uncertainty for purchasers in understanding what had been lawfully cleared pursuant to a code and whether further clearing could occur. In contrast, a farming group was not supportive of notifications being registered on title.

It was also noted that landholders on leasehold land would need to seek any approvals required from the Western Lands Commission prior making a notification.

Other issues of uncertainty included:

- whether more than one notification can be lodged at a time
- how long after notification clearing could occur
- whether notifications would be subject to an audit.

5.7 NV Act and Regulation 2013

The comments provided on the *NV Act* and *Regulation 2013* are outlined below.

The failure of the Act to place trust in landholders as environmental custodians of their land

Several submissions stated that landholders understand the importance of preserving native vegetation and do not need their activities regulated to the extent currently provided for under the NV Act and Regulations. Another submission referred to the failure of the NV Act to recognise conservation action put in place by landholders before the introduction of clearing controls under the NV Act.

The failure of the NV Act to facilitate productive agriculture

Some respondents considered that the NV Act imposes restrictions on the capacity of landholders to undertake clearing which would allow for increased production and improved economic outcomes.

A number of these submissions noted a failure of the NV Act to properly acknowledge the economic needs of landholders, one submission commented:

Nowhere in the objects of the present Act is there to be found any statement to the effect that landholder interests and concerns should be an essential part of the process of the management of native vegetation issues in NSW. This deficiency and imbalance needs to be urgently addressed and rectified.

Another submission referred to the failure of the legislation to deal with regional differences and that this needs to be properly addressed in reviewing the NV Act. These differences included the particular biodiversity outcomes achieved through rotational grazing practices in the Western Division.

The effect of the NV Act in interfering with property rights of landholders

A few submissions referred to the NV Act's interference with landholder's ability to utilise their land for agricultural purposes and the absence of any scheme for compensating landholders for that interference. One submission commented:

It is unreasonable to expect farmers to manage for the public good without either adequate compensation or a means for generating income for their effort.

The importance of the NV Act in achieving environmental benefits

Several submissions, including some of the form letters, referred to the role of the NV Act in providing protection for native vegetation and securing positive environmental outcomes, by way of the 'improve or maintain' test for broadscale clearing. The form letters referred to the 'critical role' of the NV Act in reducing the loss of vegetation in New South Wales.

Some submissions suggested that improvements to the legislation are required in order to maintain this positive effect. Some suggested this could be done by extending the operation of the NV Act beyond the agricultural sector and limiting the availability of RAMAs.

A need to increase efficiency of the PVP process

Three submissions presented a view that the PVP process should be more efficient. They suggest resourcing of LLSs, stating

It was never intended that PVPs would take weeks or months to negotiate. Increasing resources to better administer the Act would mean that thinning and Invasive Native Species (INS) PVPs could be put in place much faster, whilst not compromising the environmental objectives of the regulatory regime.

5.8 Online Information Tools on the NV Act

At the time of the exhibition online information tools were being developed to assist the public to determine if the NV Act applies to their land and what clearing can be undertaken without approval. A prototype of the tool to assist landholders to determine what RAMAs apply to their land was available during the exhibition period. Twenty-three people requested and were given access to the tool to try out its functions.

Three submissions referred to the tool. One commended the OEH for recognising the need for the tool.

Another commented that an online system that instantly advises of any special requirements after a landholder has entered their property location along with an outline of their proposed work would be useful.

The final comment was that the map should be easier to find and commented on what the default settings for the map should be (vulnerable lands indicated as the default).

People who attended the demonstrations also raised concerns regarding online access in rural areas. They suggested extensive testing of the system in remote areas before 'going live'.

It was also recommended that a link be made from the online mapping tool to the Threatened Species database to highlight any known (local) records of threatened species.

Feedback from a field demonstration on the Paddock Trees Code in the Riverina LLS region suggested adding additional layers into the existing tool to help decision-making. Suggestions for additional layers included vegetation community mapping, endangered ecological communities, threatened species and regional landscape mapping.

The online information tools that provide general information on the NV Act and Regulation 2013 have now been finalised and are available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/onlinetools.htm. An online tool will also be developed to assist landholders to apply any final codes.

5.9 Public engagement process

Four submissions referred to the public engagement process. Three stakeholders expressed the opinion that they had not been listened to in previous consultation processes.

One stakeholder expressed concern over a perceived lack of Aboriginal consultation at the demonstrations.

An LLS suggested that many landholders do not have an understanding of how the review of biodiversity legislation will affect the regulation of native vegetation. The LLS considered that landholders may be more likely to participate in the biodiversity review if they have an understanding of the relationship, and suggested this should be more widely publicised by OEH.

Appendix 1: OEH online survey

During the exhibition process the consultation portal included a survey that respondents could use to comment on the draft codes and native vegetation regulation in NSW and submit their responses online. The survey questions were:

Draft Codes

Technical feedback

Q. Please comment on the technical thresholds proposed in the self-assessable code.

Q. Have you identified any regional variations or exclusions that could be covered within the current technical thresholds?

Workability of the self-assessable codes

Q. Are there aspects of the self-assessable code that require further explanation or instruction before you are able to make a determination?

Q. Please comment on the workability of the self-assessable code in making decisions to clear vegetation in your region.

Effectiveness of the Landholder Guide

Q. In what way was the Landholder Guide helpful in understanding the requirements of the Ministerial Order?

Q. What else could be included in the guide to assist landholders in making decisions using the self-assessable code?

Native Vegetation Regulation in NSW

Q. Please provide any general comment or feedback about the proposed modernisation of native vegetation and biodiversity legislation.

Q. What aspects of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* specifically do you consider most important?

Appendix 2: Field demonstrations

Invasive native species draft code (12)

Dates	Location	LLS Region
08/04/14	Cobar	Western
14/04/14	Ford's Bridge, Bourke	Western
12/05/14	Broken Hill	Western
14/05/14	Walgett – Area 1	North West
15/05/14	Walgett – Area 2	North West
02/04/14	Nyngan	Central West
03/04/14	Miandetta – Cobar Penepplain	Central West
07/05/14	Yeoval	Central Tablelands
08/04/14	Manilla/Rangari District	North West
06/05/14	Deniliquin	Murray
12/05/14	Towamba Valley	South East
10/04/14	Wallagra	Northern Tablelands

Paddock trees draft code

(Nine demonstrations plus farm visits in Central West and Murray regions.)

Dates	Location	LLS Region
02/04/14	Casino	North Coast
03/04/14	Grafton — DPI site	North Coast
07/04/14 – 23/05/14	Central West Region — farm visits with 18 landholders	Central West
15/05/14	Rankin Springs	Riverina
13/05/14	Temora	Riverina
15/05/14 – 26/05/14	Murray Region — one-on-one with 18 landholders and two group sessions with irrigators and dryland cropping farmers	Murray
05/05/14	Yass	South East
11/04/14	Merriwa District	Hunter
26/06/14	Buronga	Western

Thinning draft code (11)

Dates	Location	LLS Region
13/05/14	Narrabri	North West
20/05/14	Dungowan	North West
02/04/14	Casino	North Coast
03/04/14	Grafton — DPI site	North Coast
09/05/14	Bethungra	Riverina
29/04/14	Wera	Murray
09/05/14	South Marulan	South East
27/03/14	Gloucester Area 1	Hunter
27/03/14	Gloucester Area 2	Hunter

Dates	Location	LLS Region
09/04/14	Singleton District	Hunter
26/05/14	Wallagra	Northern Tablelands

Appendix 3: Submissions received

Individuals

Five hundred and two submissions were received from individuals, 200 of which the submitter provided their name and 302 were anonymous. Of the 502 submissions, 418 were form letters/modified form letters based on points developed by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

In some cases the submitters provided some extra comments than in the form letter and are referred to as 'modified form letters'. Of the 200 signed submissions, 158 of these were either form or modified form letters.

Signed Submissions (200 of 502)

Individuals – Form Letters (60 of 502)

	Author
1	Cherie Neumann
2	Jacky Hunt
3	Manolo MacDonald
4	Alan Hill
5	Joanne Hutchison
6	Nicholas Cooper
7	Alan Mewett
8	Julie McCarthy
9	Lauren Mueller
10	Craig Bennett
11	Lynn Gauntlett
12	Ken Dillon
13	Ben Hirst
14	Kelvin Cremen
15	Helen Eyles
16	Wendy Arnott
17	Jessica Knight
18	James Mulcare
19	Gideon Nedas
20	Alex Burton
21	Seb Geers
22	Marie Flood
23	William Wilson
24	Elisabeth Nicolson
25	Jeanette Reece
26	Joe Kielniacz
27	Russell Weisz
28	Paul Harrtis
29	Emma Buchan

	Author
30	Paula Duggan
31	Roy Giles
32	Simon Harman
33	Tracy Jacobs
34	Larlie Williams
35	Kay Baird
36	Denise Dent
37	Cheryl Wheatley
38	Jessica Hainsworth
39	Karen Banks
40	Imelda Jennings
41	Rose Galvin
42	Marion Gaborieau
43	Timothy Lawnicki
44	Roberta Turpin
45	Marion Van Delft
46	Jenni George-Slade
47	Roselyn Druce
48	Graham Vanny
49	Catherine Smykowsky
50	Kirsten Vine
51	Samten Lozang
52	Marg Mclean
53	Linda Lee
54	Jan Felton
55	Jane Parkes
56	Veronica Cooling
57	Karina Roberts
58	Robyn Cox
59	Maeve Dunnett
60	Tam Hanson

Individuals – Modified Form Letters (98 of 502)

	Author and document
1	Lyn Morehen NVCOPSUB26 (PDF 17KB)
2	Boudewijn Minnaert NVCOPSUB45 (PDF 17KB)
3	Garth Setchell NVCOPSUB52 (PDF 21KB)
4	Peter Gration NVCOPSUB59 (PDF 21KB)
5	Kathy Gall NVCOPSUB67 (PDF 17KB)
6	Meryl Dillon NVCOPSUB70 (PDF 17KB)
7	Peter Ireland NVCOPSUB73 (PDF 17KB)
8	John French NVCOPSUB87 (PDF 17KB)
9	Margaret Lai NVCOPSUB90 (PDF 17KB)
10	Margaret Lai NVCOPSUB91 (PDF 16KB)
11	Barry Kean NVCOPSUB95 (PDF 16KB)
12	Catherine De Lorenzo NVCOPSUB96 (PDF 17KB)
13	Meredyth Woodward NVCOPSUB119 (PDF 17KB)
14	Mellisa Taylor NVCOPSUB122 (PDF 36KB)
15	Jennifer Connelly NVCOPSUB131 (PDF 36KB)
16	Malcolm Daniels NVCOPSUB135 (PDF 36KB)
17	Mike Long NVCOPSUB226 (PDF 15KB)
18	Len Kenna NVCOPSUB229 (PDF 15KB)
19	Rae Desmond Jones NVCOPSUB232 (PDF 15KB)
20	Pauline Allingham NVCOPSUB240 (PDF 15KB)
21	Jill Moncrieff NVCOPSUB242 (PDF 16KB)
22	David Goodfield NVCOPSUB247 (PDF 16KB)
23	Fay Briggs NVCOPSUB249 (PDF 15KB)
24	Reto Zollinger NVCOPSUB252 (PDF 16KB)
25	Vicki Perizzolo NVCOPSUB257 (PDF 15KB)
26	Josephine Beams NVCOPSUB265 (PDF 15KB)
27	Ford Kristo NVCOPSUB266 (PDF 33KB)
28	Lyn Walker NVCOPSUB274 (PDF 16KB)
29	Adrian Ingleby NVCOPSUB276 (PDF 15KB)
30	Michael Leggett NVCOPSUB277 (PDF15KB)
31	Nicole McGregor NVCOPSUB281 (PDF15KB)
32	Alistair Sproul NVCOPSUB284 (PDF 16KB)
33	Naomi Henry NVCOPSUB287 (PDF 15KB)
34	Caitlin O'Connor NVCOPSUB289 (PDF 15KB)
35	Judith Herring NVCOPSUB292 (PDF 15KB)
36	Rebecca Dawson NVCOPSUB294 (PDF 16KB)
37	Barry Yardley NVCOPSUB299 (PDF 15KB)
38	Rachel Lindsay NVCOPSUB301 (PDF 15KB)
39	Gillian Andersen NVCOPSUB304 (PDF 15KB)

	Author and document
40	Sylvia Cooper NVCOPSUB305 (PDF 15KB)
41	Carlie Spencer NVCOPSUB316 (PDF 31KB)
42	Malcolm Henderson NVCOPSUB327 (PDF 32KB)
43	Annabel Murray NVCOPSUB328 (PDF 32KB)
44	Rae Motteram NVCOPSUB329 (PDF 32KB)
45	Paul Vale NVCOPSUB335 (PDF 31KB)
46	Adrian Guthrie NVCOPSUB345 (PDF 32KB)
47	Stuart Hill NVCOPSUB350 (PDF 34KB)
48	Terry Barratt NVCOPSUB354 (PDF 32KB)
49	William Harve NVCOPSUB360 (PDF 32KB)
50	Ian Catt NVCOPSUB361 (PDF 31KB)
51	Lynette Chamas NVCOPSUB366 (PDF 32KB)
52	Christine Apostopoulos NVCOPSUB372 (PDF 15KB)
53	Susie Russell NVCOPSUB376 (PDF 16KB)
54	Susie Russell NVCOPSUB377 (PDF 16KB)
55	Jessica McGowan NVCOPSUB378 (PDF 15KB)
56	Roger Walter NVCOPSUB387 (PDF 15KB)
57	Maggie Wheeler NVCOPSUB389 (PDF 16KB)
58	Anthony Belton NVCOPSUB392 (PDF 15KB)
59	Kathleen Dowling NVCOPSUB393 (PDF 15KB)
60	Wendy Haynes NVCOPSUB394 (PDF 15KB)
61	Jill Madden NVCOPSUB405 (PDF 16KB)
62	Ian Dixon NVCOPSUB406 (PDF 15KB)
63	Timothy Lawnicki NVCOPSUB408 (PDF 15KB)
64	Ken Best NVCOPSUB409 (PDF 15KB)
65	Julia Imrie NVCOPSUB410 (PDF 15KB)
66	Julia Imrie NVCOPSUB411 (PDF 16KB)
67	Phillip Langley NVCOPSUB412 (PDF 15KB)
68	Peter Butler NVCOPSUB413 (PDF 15KB)
69	Imelda Jennings NVCOPSUB415 (PDF 16KB)
70	Albert Green NVCOPSUB417 (PDF 16KB)
71	Christina Rygiert NVCOPSUB420 (PDF 15KB)
72	Jim Morrison NVCOPSUB422 (PDF 16KB)
73	Anneke Van Tholen NVCOPSUB428 (PDF 15KB)
74	Jason Richardson NVCOPSUB433 (PDF 15KB)
75	Jozy Sutton NVCOPSUB434 (PDF 15KB)
76	Mike Thompson NVCOPSUB436 (PDF 15KB)
77	Catrina, Glenn & Maggie Kerr NVCOPSUB445 (PDF 15KB)
78	John Forrest NVCOPSUB455 (PDF 16KB)
79	Simone Gillespie NVCOPSUB459 (PDF 15KB)

	Author and document
80	Joanne Diver NVCOPSUB463 (PDF 15KB)
81	Ruth Neumann NVCOPSUB465 (PDF 16KB)
82	Maurice Oxenburgh NVCOPSUB470 (PDF 15KB)
83	Jenny Scott NVCOPSUB474 (PDF 16KB)
84	Kate Stone NVCOPSUB475 (PDF 15KB)
85	Anna Le Masurier NVCOPSUB478 (PDF 15KB)
86	Mark Nener NVCOPSUB480 (PDF 15KB)
87	Brigid Dowsett NVCOPSUB485 (PDF 15KB)
88	Robert Mason NVCOPSUB499 (PDF 15KB)
89	Noel Rosten NVCOPSUB505 (PDF 15KB)
90	Tevor Roberts NVCOPSUB506 (PDF 15KB)
91	Linda Watts NVCOPSUB515 (PDF 16KB)
92	Gail Giles-Gidney NVCOPSUB516 (PDF 15KB)
93	D Butt NVCOPSUB520 (PDF 15KB)
94	Ray Ban Online Shop Italy NVCOPSUB523 (PDF 16KB)
95	Hugh Jones NVCOPSUB525 (PDF 15KB)
96	Michelle Croker NVCOPSUB527 (PDF 16KB)
97	Wholesale Sunglasses USA NVCOPSUB528 (PDF 16KB)
98	Melanie Banenrman NVCOPSUB530 (PDF 16KB)

Individuals – Standard Survey Forms, Emails/Letters (42)

	Author and document
1	Neil Druce NVCOPSUB1 (PDF 82KB)
2	Gerard O'Brien NVCOPSUB3 (PDF 96KB)
3	Allan Lambie NVCOPSUB4 (PDF 49KB)
4	Neville Schrader NVCOPSUB7 (PDF 93KB)
5	Neville Schrader NVCOPSUB8 (PDF 93KB)
6	Neville Schrader NVCOPSUB9 (PDF 93KB)
7	Neville Schrader NVCOPSUB10 (PDF 79KB)
8	Sue McIntyre NVCOPSUB13 (PDF 68KB)
9	Ian Scott NVCOPSUB14 (PDF 238KB)
10	Ken Woodward NVCOPSUB15 (PDF 125KB)
11	Gail Young NVCOPSUB20 (PDF 38KB)
12	James Litchfield NVCOPSUB21 (PDF 67KB)
13	Frank Chalker NVCOPSUB23 (PDF 449KB)
14	Greg Bennett NVCOPSUB144 (PDF 53KB)
15	Derek Hill NVCOPSUB146 (PDF 29KB)
16	Claire Smith NVCOPSUB149 (PDF 50KB)
17	Jacqui Stol NVCOPSUB150 (PDF 31)
18	K.J. Hooper NVCOPSUB154 (PDF 2,217KB)
19	R Anderson NVCOPSUB156 (PDF 82KB)

	Author and document
20	Cameron & Caroline Tongue NVCOPSUB160 (PDF 40KB)
21	Mark Honess NVCOPSUB165 (PDF 850KB)
22	Tony Hayne NVCOPSUB168 (PDF 42KB)
23	Nathan Penny NVCOPSUB169 (PDF 32KB)
24	Margaret Lorang NVCOPSUB174 (PDF 38KB)
25	David Lane NVCOPSUB177 (PDF 92KB)
26	Diane Michel & John McCain NVCOPSUB180 (PDF 53KB)
27	Adair Moar NVCOPSUB182 (PDF 32KB)
28	Wendy Hawes NVCOPSUB183 (PDF 216KB)
29	Phil & Judi Thompson NVCOPSUB185 (PDF 42KB)
30	David Donnelly NVCOPSUB193 (PDF 18KB)
31	Gabrielle Holmes NVCOPSUB194 (PDF 107KB)
32	Derek Hill NVCOPSUB196 (PDF 28KB)
33	Kevin Tongue NVCOPSUB199 (PDF 34KB)
34	Doug Menzies NVCOPSUB200 (PDF 13KB)
35	Paul MacRae NVCOPSUB201 (PDF 15KB)
36	Scott Tourle NVCOPSUB212 (PDF 57KB)
37	R K Eassie NVCOPSUB218 (PDF 35KB)
38	Jock Hunter NVCOPSUB220 (PDF 17KB)
39	Neville Brunt NVCOPSUB340 (PDF 338KB)
40	Warren Moss NVCOPSUB341 (PDF 343KB)
41	Geoff Tongue NVCOPSUB351 (PDF 165KB)
42	Murray Davies NVCOPSUB571 (PDF 25KB)

Anonymous submissions (302 of 502)

Of the 302 anonymous submissions 133 of these were form letters.

Anonymous Individuals – Modified Form Letters (127 of 502)

	Author and document
1	Anonymous NVCOPSUB27 (PDF 21KB)
2	Anonymous NVCOPSUB28 (PDF 21KB)
3	Anonymous NVCOPSUB30 (PDF 21KB)
4	Anonymous NVCOPSUB31 (PDF 21KB)
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12	Anonymous NVCOPSUB40 (PDF 21KB)

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92	Anonymous NVCOPSUB370 (PDF 15KB)

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122	Anonymous NVCOPSUB500 (PDF 16KB)
123	Anonymous NVCOPSUB502 (PDF 15KB)
124	Anonymous NVCOPSUB503 (PDF 16KB)
125	Anonymous NVCOPSUB507 (PDF 15KB)
126	Anonymous NVCOPSUB526 (PDF 15KB)
127	Anonymous NVCOPSUB531 (PDF 15KB)

Anonymous Individuals — Standard Survey/Email/Letter (42 of 502)

	Author and document
1	Anonymous NVCOPSUB2 (PDF 102KB)
2	Anonymous NVCOPSUB5 (PDF 99KB)
3	Anonymous NVCOPSUB6 (PDF 99KB)
4	Anonymous NVCOPSUB11(PDF 49KB)
5	Anonymous NVCOPSUB16 (PDF 48KB)
6	Anonymous NVCOPSUB19 (PDF 56KB)
7	Anonymous NVCOPSUB22 (PDF 50KB)
8	Anonymous NVCOPSUB125 (PDF 54KB)
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10	Anonymous NVCOPSUB141 (PDF 43KB)
11	Anonymous NVCOPSUB142 (PDF 35KB)
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13	Anonymous NVCOPSUB151 (PDF 46KB)
14	Anonymous NVCOPSUB152 (PDF 46KB)
15	Anonymous NVCOPSUB153 (PDF 45KB)
16	Anonymous NVCOPSUB157 (PDF 39KB)
17	Anonymous NVCOPSUB158 (PDF 164KB)
18	Anonymous NVCOPSUB159 (PDF 42KB)
19	Anonymous NVCOPSUB161 (PDF 45KB)
20	Anonymous NVCOPSUB162 (PDF 38KB)
21	Anonymous NVCOPSUB166 (PDF 45KB)
22	Anonymous NVCOPSUB167 (PDF 55KB)
23	Anonymous NVCOPSUB170 (PDF 44KB)
24	Anonymous NVCOPSUB181 (PDF 43KB)
25	Anonymous NVCOPSUB187 (PDF 48KB)
26	Anonymous NVCOPSUB188 (PDF 42KB)
27	Anonymous NVCOPSUB189 (PDF 43KB)
28	Anonymous NVCOPSUB195 (PDF 44KB)
29	Anonymous NVCOPSUB197 (PDF 43KB)
30	Anonymous NVCOPSUB198 (PDF 43KB)
31	Anonymous NVCOPSUB202 (PDF 43KB)
32	Anonymous NVCOPSUB203 (PDF 43KB)
33	Anonymous NVCOPSUB204 (PDF 45KB)
34	Anonymous NVCOPSUB205 (PDF 42KB)
35	Anonymous NVCOPSUB208 (PDF 49KB)
36	Anonymous NVCOPSUB209 (PDF 53KB)
37	Anonymous NVCOPSUB210 (PDF 45KB)
38	Anonymous NVCOPSUB211 (PDF 41KB)
39	Anonymous NVCOPSUB215 (PDF 44KB)

	Author and document
40	Anonymous NVCOPSUB216 (PDF 39KB)
41	Anonymous NVCOPSUB217 (PDF 41KB)
42	Anonymous NVCOPSUB339 (PDF 345KB)

Submissions from various groups, Local Government, State Government and field demonstration reports are listed below.

Farming Group (6)

	Author and document
1	NSW Farmers Gloucester Branch NVCOPSUB17 (PDF 63KB)
2	SMK Consultants NVCOPSUB186 (PDF 600KB)
3	NSW Forest Products Association Ltd NVCOPSUB192 (PDF 345KB)
4	NSW Regional Community Survival Group Inc. NVCOPSUB206 (PDF 109KB)
5	Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc. NVCOPSUB214 (PDF 145KB)
6	NSW Farmers' Association NVCOPSUB221 (PDF 294KB)

Environment Groups (16)

	Author and document
1	Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society NVCOPSUB145 (PDF 118KB)
2	North Coast Environment Council NVCOPSUB155 (PDF 217KB)
3	Armidale Branch National Parks Asso NVCOPSUB163 (PDF 22KB)
4	Armidale Branch National Parks Asso NVCOPSUB164 (PDF 25KB)
5	Hastings Birdwatchers NVCOPSUB171 (PDF 97KB)
6	Hastings Birdwatchers NVCOPSUB172 (PDF 90KB)
7	Cumberland Bird Observers Club Inc. NVCOPSUB173 (PDF 363KB)
8	Friends of the Koala Inc. NVCOPSUB176 (PDF 129KB)
9	Blue Mountains Bird Observers NVCOPSUB179 (PDF 48KB)
10	Clarence Valley Conservation Coalition Inc. NVCOPSUB184 (PDF 147KB)
11	EDO NSW NVCOPSUB190 (PDF 264KB)
12	NCC, TEC, NPA, TWS & WWF NVCOPSUB191 (PDF 281)
13	Bush Heritage Australia NVCOPSUB207 (PDF 8197KB)
14	Northern Inland Council for the Environment NVCOPSUB219 (PDF 152KB)
15	Colong Foundation for Wilderness NVCOPSUB338 (PDF 305KB)
16	Birdlife Southern NSW NVCOPSUB488 (PDF 60KB)

Science/Policy Advisory Body (2)

	Author and document
1	NSW Scientific Committee NVCOPSUB213 (PDF 144KB)
2	Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists NVCOPSUB309 (PDF 98KB)

Local government (5)

	Author and document
1	Wingecarribee Shire Council NVCOPSUB147 (PDF 109KB)
2	Eurobodalla Shire Council NVCOPSUB148 (PDF 604KB)
3	Bathurst Regional Council NVCOPSUB175 (PDF 522KB)
4	City of Wagga Wagga NVCOPSUB178 (PDF 505KB)
5	Yass Valley Council NVCOPSUB529 (PDF 47KB)

Field Demonstration Reports (26)

	Author and document
1	Daryl Green INSDemos1_8SUB533 (PDF 1202KB)
2	Central Tablelands Local Land Services INSDemo8SUB534 (PDF 17KB)
3	North West Local Land Services INSDemo9SUB535 (PDF 42KB)
4	Murray Local Land Services INSDemo10SUB536 (PDF 132KB)
5	South East Local Land Services INSDemo11SUB537 (PDF 17KB)
6	Northern Tablelands Local Land Services INSDemo12SUB538 (PDF 353KB)
7	North Coast Local Land Services PTDemo1SUB539 (PDF 40KB)
8	North Coast Local Land Services PTDemo2SUB540 (PDF 63KB)
9	Central West Local Land Services PTDemo3SUB541 (PDF 39KB)
10	Riverina Local Land Services PTDemo4SUB542 (PDF 239KB)
11	Riverina Local Land Services PTDemo5SUB543 (PDF 250KB)
12	Murray Local Land Services PTDemo6SUB544 (PDF 141KB)
13	South East Local Land Services PTDemo7SUB545 (PDF 8KB)
14	Hunter Local Land Services PTDemo8SUB546 (PDF 888KB)
15	North West Local Land Services THNDemo1SUB547 (PDF 38KB)
16	North West Local Land Services THNDemo2SUB548 (PDF 45KB)
17	North Coast Local Land Services THNDemo3SUB549 (PDF 46KB)
18	North Coast Local Land Services THNDemo4SUB550 (PDF 54KB)
19	Riverina Local Land Services THNDemo5SUB551 (PDF 108KB)
20	Murray Local Land Services THNDemo6SUB552 (PDF 131KB)
21	South East Local Land Services THNDemo7SUB553 (PDF 10KB)
22	Hunter Local Land Services THNDemo8SUB554 (PDF 2272KB)
23	Hunter Local Land Services THNDemo9SUB555 (PDF 4277KB)
24	Hunter Local Land Services THNDemo10SUB556 (PDF 936KB)
25	Northern Tablelands Local Land Services THNDemo11SUB557 (PDF 352KB)
26	Noel Hayward PTDemo9SUB569 (PDF 253KB)