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**From:** Jacinta Rheinberger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 July 2012 10:01 AM  
**To:** EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox; office@parker.minister.nsw.gov.au;  
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I am a conservationist, Horticulturist and Environmentalist and it really upsets me when local Governments try to change something that is there for a good reason. It was put in place because clearing is detrimental to the environment, people who are UN-educated in the natural world don't realise that everything plays apart in the Circle of life from the largest whale to the smallest ant and you money hungry Govs don't think about the outcome which you and I will all suffer from because of the gov's need for money and the people who work for Gov are arrogant and stupid! most of these people work in the Enviro sectors as well which is mind boggling. Its simple Clearing is bad not only for the planet we call home but for the water we drink, the air we breath, the food we eat and the rest of the living creatures that call this planet home! Please don't change the law leave it as it is I'm sick of living in fear because the end is not to far away if we keep it up!

I am disappointed that the New South Wales Government is proposing major changes to native vegetation laws that will allow for an increase in land clearing in large parts of the state.

Native vegetation provides essential environmental, social and economic benefits, including protecting water quality, maintaining soil health and providing wildlife habitat. Our threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and plants are dependent on the important remnant vegetation dotted across heavily cleared landscapes. We can't afford to lose more critical areas of bushland.

The Native Vegetation Act 2003 has played a critical role in stabilising the extent of native vegetation in New South Wales. The integrity of the legislative scheme is underpinned by the application of detailed regulations and a robust methodology for the assessment of environmental outcomes.

In particular, the proposals to weaken existing protections by allowing clearing of invasive native species and thinning of native vegetation without advice and approval from Catchment Management Authorities has the potential to result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of hectares of native vegetation.

Healthy, biodiverse landscapes result in more productive agricultural systems. With the onset of climate change and its associated increase in extreme weather events and temperature fluctuations, conserving native vegetation will benefit biodiversity, farmers and the Australian economy into the future.

Savings in administration costs and reductions in "green tape" should not be achieved at the expense of the essential environmental, social and economic benefits provided by native vegetation.

Thank you for your time Jacinta Rheinberger