

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 August 2012 11:55 PM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Native vegetation

To whom it may concern:

I beleive the government should uphold strong native vegetation laws - we must not return to the bad practices of the past.

*The decades of unsustainable land clearing, when millions of hectares of endangered ecological communities, threatened species habitat and wetlands were bulldozed and burned should serve as lesson and should never be repeated.

What can the NSW government be thinking of?

* I am appalled that the NSW Government is proposing major changes to native vegetation laws that will allow for an increase in land clearing in large parts of the state. Have they forgotten the past?

Water is life.

* Native vegetation provides essential environmental, social and economic benefits, especially the protection of water quality, the maintaining of soil health and provision of wildlife habitat. Threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and plants *are dependent on the important remnant vegetation dotted across already heavily cleared landscapes*. We cannot afford to lose more critical areas of bushland.

Why the need for change of the Native Vegetation Act 2003?

* The Native Vegetation Act 2003 has been important 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. *The changes currently proposed in the draft Native Vegetation Regulation 2012 will place very large areas of native vegetation at risk from unrestrained and unsustainable clearing. This can only be a bad thing!* The changes will severely weaken the integrity of these important environment protections and inevitably lead to ongoing destruction and fragmentation of habitat. **Fragmentation of habitat is KNOWN the world over to be a complete disaster!**

Existing protection should be maintained.

* 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.

The importance of the preservation of biodiversity.

* 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.

"Ecological burning" and its negative impact

* Allowing ecological burning to occur as a Routine Agricultural Management Activity

has the potential to negatively impact on our flora, fauna and endangered ecological communities as well as threaten life and property.

Economics!

* 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. **NATIVE VEGETATION IS JUST THAT - THE BEST ADAPTED TO THE NATIVE ENVIRONMENT!! WE CAN'T DO ANY BETTER.**

GIVE NATIVE VEGETATION THE CHANCE IT DESERVES, WORK WITH IT NOT AGAINST IT.

Yours sincerely
Hannah R Woolhouse