

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 August 2012 10:31 AM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Cc: office@premier.nsw.gov.au; office@parker.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The Native Vegetation Act 2003

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was disappointed to hear 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 protects water quality, maintains soil health and provides vital wildlife habitat – all things which have environmental AND Economic benefits.

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. They will severely weaken the integrity of these important environmental protections and inevitably lead to ongoing destruction of the natural habitat. 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. We can't afford to lose more critical areas of native bushland.

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

I urge you to support a balanced approach to this reform process, and to oppose proposals which reduce the environmental protections contained in the regulations and significantly weaken the intent of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

Yours sincerely,

L.M. de Oliveira