

Native Vegetation Regulation Review
Conservation Policy and Strategy Section
Office of Environment and Heritage
Level 12, PO Box A290
Sydney South NSW 1232

17/8/12

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review of the Native Vegetation regulations.

I am writing to support the recommendations of NSW Farmers Association for changes to the regulations.

In addition, I would also like to propose that the following recommendations that are of particular relevance to the North Coast region be considered as part of the review.

- Over regulation- The Native Vegetation Act should be the only authority over native vegetation on land zoned rural. Amendments are required to the EP&A Act to prevent Local Government imposing environmental zones, or other planning instruments, that override the policy objectives and specific permissions provided by the Native Vegetation Act. This would complement the Coalition's commitments to integrate planning legislation, cut red tape and avoid duplication of activity across agencies. The complexities of all the regulatory requirements are very confusing to the landholder.
- Landholders should be able to thin non-regrowth trees without offsets under RAMAs
- Equal native vegetation legislation for agricultural and mining activities.
- The regrowth date should be uniform across the state (1983)
- Social and economic considerations have been removed from NVA assessment process. There needs to be a return to the Triple bottom line needs approach.
- The 2 hectare exemption was removed without proper consultation and should be reintroduced.
- There needs to be more flexibility in using on-farm timber for infrastructure and fencing.
- Removal of Camphor laurel and all exotic plants should not require intervention by any Council.
- The definition of broadscale clearing given in the Act must be changed so that it does not mean clearing of single native plants.
- Private Native Forestry and forest management is not about clearing and should be included as a RAMA under the Act

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Wright