

Native Vegetation Regulation Review,
Conservation Policy and Strategy, Office of Environment and Heritage.

Level 12, PO Box A290

Sydney, South NSW 1232

22nd August 2012.

Submission

Dear, Sir/ Madam

I am a member of various environmental groups as I love the natural beauty of this Country and as yet have not been destroyed by over population and development with most of its natural features still in place.

However this cannot always remain so unless we maintain our precious environmental laws.

I feel there has been a general attack on the environment by this new State Government since taking office, even radio commentator like; Alan Jones has attacked the state Government on this stance.

Native vegetation laws are important and should be maintained unless in very special circumstances, as with vegetation build up around homes, that could cause fire and safety issues, In this case the vegetation would have to be cut down and cleared with a reasonable distance around urban and rural properties as most people would agree.

We have all just seen the recent ABC 4 Corners programme about the decline of the Koala in northern NSW and QLD. This programme has highlighted the importance of our native bushlands to the community.

There should be more State and Federal financial incentive programmes for Farmers to keep and maintain native vegetation cover on their properties even to encourage large plantings of trees for possible future timber needs and logging out of native forests.

I am disappointed that the NSW Government is proposing major changes to native vegetations laws that will allow for an increase in land clearing in large parts of the State.

We need to learn from the decades of unsustainable land clearing, when millions of hectares of endangered ecological communities, threatened species habitat and wetlands were bulldozed and burned. The Government needs to uphold strong native vegetation laws where reasonable possible so that we don't return to the bad practices of the past.

Native vegetation provides essential environmental, protection for water quality with the protection of creeks, maintains soil health and providing wildlife habitat.

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.

In particular the proposals to weaken existing protections by allowing clearing of invasive native species and thinning of native vegetation without the advice and approval from the Catchment Management Authorities.

I urge you please support a more balanced approach to this reform process and to oppose proposals which significantly weaken the intent of the Native Vegetation Act 2003.

Please consider the points mentioned above.

Thank you.

Timothy Bidder