

Anne Reeves

BROADWAY

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Native Vegetation Regulation Review,  
Conservation Policy and Strategy Section,  
Office of Environment & Heritage,  
PO Box A290,  
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW 1232.

I submit that robust regulation of native vegetation is an essential tool for the good management of our landscape for the benefit of all and that the stated six-point focus can be reconciled within this framework.

I highlight the following:

- the shift since settlement from expectations, and sometimes obligations, that landscape should be cleared for settlement and development to recognition that as much as possible of remaining native vegetation should be retained and managed conservatively for the benefit of all.
- removal of natural vegetation through clearing and logging leads to
  - loss of natural habitat, thus threatening the ongoing viability of many ecosystems and species;
  - release of carbon emissions so exacerbating climate change;
  - soil salinity, erosion and reduced in-ground water retention,.
- damage caused by over clearing has been significant, with huge public and private effort and cost in activities to counteract erosion, salinity, replanting schemes, landcare programmes etc.
- regulation of native vegetation clearing was hailed as a much needed step in halting these adverse effects.

I urge the Review to improve and strengthen Native Vegetation Regulations so as to not only maintain but also raise the environmental standard set by the Native Vegetation Act 2003 through:

- Closing loopholes for ongoing clearing and tree removal on private and leasehold land;
- Ensuring public and private native forestry codes of practice are enforceable and conform with need to safeguard habitat including important biodiversity corridor areas.



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