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**From:** Phil [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 August 2012 6:01 PM  
**To:** EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox  
**Subject:** Review Of Native Vegetation Regulation

Dear Officers,

Below are some comments on the review:

**General Comment**

Given the range of complex issues that managers of properties face in seeking to provide food and other products for the community, of which management of native vegetation is only one issue, seeking to understand all the native vegetation requirements and their relationship to other farm pursuits seems rather daunting. From casual discussion with others in relation to this review it appears people are not aware of many of the provisions, with only a working knowledge of some aspects.

I suggest that in the process of formalising this review, some one simple document be prepared, written from the point of view of landowners, summarising native vegetation requirements, both Act and Regulation, for a range of common farm activities eg, PNF, grazing, horticulture, fire management, infrastructure management (fences, roads, drains, power and phone lines) and so on. As necessary the document could contain the rider that it is not a legal document but only a guide, and the reader should consult other more detailed information. Such a document, I believe, would be invaluable to responsible farm managers and would make the entire process much more efficient and less stressful. It is unrealistic to expect farmers to trawl through many documents prior to making basic decisions on farm operations in order to ascertain if some native vegetation requirement is involved.

**Specific Comments**

1. It is noted that in relation to RAMAs, specific codes of practice are still to be drafted, hence some implications, intended or otherwise, of the proposed changes to the regulation can not be assessed.

2. Fact Sheet 5 - Clearing that needs approval - Para two seems to suggest that clearing without approval will be allowed under various RAMAs, then para three indicates all other clearing will require approval under a PVP. I understand that under the Act, generally regrowth since 1990 can be cleared. Is fact sheet 5 saying "the 1990 rule" will no longer apply. I have heard different interpretations on this. Clarification is required on this basic point.

3. RIS - p43 Table 20, regrowth is protected once a PNF PVP has ended. Again, how does this relate to the Acts 1990 rule?

4. Draft Code of Practice - Thinning to Benchmark in Namoi p8 Sc 7 Regrowth is protected - Following clearing under this code all regrowth is protected. Then, protected regrowth can be cleared using this RAMA. However it can not be cleared as regrowth under Sc 19 of the Act. This seems to be complex

wording for the farmer who is not a specialist in Native Vegetation legislation, and to me is a good example of why the one simple document referred to above in my general comment would be invaluable.

5. Native Grasslands Discussion Paper - Option 1A, possibly preferable to Option 1B, apparently is a RAMA, however it would be required to provide information to the CMA(?), presumably for some form of approval, so is it really a RAMA (not requiring approval) or not?

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