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Sent: Friday, 24 August 2012 9:37 PM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox; office@premier.nsw.gov.au;
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Subject: Native Vegetation Regulations

This submission is in regard to the review of the *Native Vegetation Regulations*.

It is scientifically proven that the retention of native vegetation provides protection of water quality, provides necessary wildlife habitat for a range of fauna, provides buffers for threatened species and ecosystems and maintains soil health.

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

It is the responsibility of the Government to protect the remaining areas of native vegetation for the reasons mentioned above.

We should not return to the unsustainable practices of the past when there was unrestrained clearing of vast tracts of land.

The Native Vegetation Act 2003 has played a critical role in stabilising the extent of native vegetation in New South Wales. The integrity of the legislative scheme is underpinned by the application of detailed regulations and a robust methodology for the assessment of environmental outcomes.

Any weakening of the current regulations could again place large areas of native vegetation at risk.

Regards,

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