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Sent: Friday, 24 August 2012 11:41 PM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Submission - Changes to NSW Native Vegetation Regulation 2012

To - native.vegetation@environment.nsw.gov.au August 24, 2012

I have just found out in the past five minutes that there may be efforts to change the NSW Native Vegetation Regulation 2012, to allow more and easier land clearing in New South Wales. With only a few hours until submissions close I would like to have a say.

Who ever you are, who ever it is reading this, think of your children and their children. If you have none, think of your sister's or your brother's children, and what they will be actually facing on the land in fifty years time.

Prospects for favourable environmental outcomes in the arid and semi-arid regions of this continent over the next fifty years are slim at best. Introduced plant and animal species, land-clearing and extractive industries have fundamentally changed the dynamic nature of the land. Without major rebuilding and care for native animals, vegetation and habitat corridors throughout much of the Australian continent, the chances of major breakdowns in natural systems are probable.

We have just ended a ten to twelve year drought and are just about to enter the next period of dryness. This next dry period may last three years, five years, ten or fifteen years. Or, it could last thirty or even one hundred years. With global warming taking a firm hold on our one and only ecosystem (Earth) "all bets are off" regarding historical weather patterns and climate predictions for the future. Therefore, the precautionary principal must apply.

As the world population heads into a time of urgent environmental reparation and renewal, ideas of weakening laws which can possibly protect precious remnant scraps of native vegetation and habitat in New South Wales would be unintelligent in the extreme. If this were to become a reality it would be one of the stupidest things I could imagine. It would rate with resurrecting the Fukushima nuclear power station and putting George W. Bush back in the White House.

Our pre-occupation with fiscal fabrications and so called free enterprise, has taken us to a place bang in the middle of a potential habitat holocaust. It is up to us all as thinking affectionate and caring human-beings to remember how precious and perilous Life really is. We must not allow the run-away-train of unrestrained capitalism to take us rapidly down a short track to certain disaster.

What ever it is that's promoting the idea of loosening or weakening laws meant to protect our remnant habitat, it should be put back in the box it came out of and buried forever. Because, globally, the remaining areas of natural vegetation untouched by human industry are rare and valuable remnants of the ecosystem that was. The desolation of vast tracts of land and sea that cover our planet are the creation of an extractive and exploitative mindset that came from the minds of our earliest and most elementary of ancestors. This fearful and greedy mindset must be recognised and left in the past, if we are to ever find a future on Earth.

If anything legislation that can protect remnant native vegetation and wildlife habitat ought to be strengthened and expanded, as a gift to future generations of all Life on Earth.

Please consider the importance of slowing down wasteful extractive processes that are so vigorously driving the fiscal fiasco we call "The World Economy".

Sincerely respectfully and with intent -
Mark Merritt

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* Find attached document as above. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.