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MACKSVILLE. 2447  
20<sup>th</sup> August, 2012.

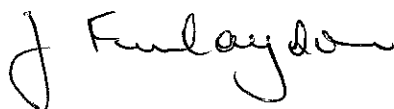
Native Vegetation Regulation Review,  
Office of environment and Heritage,  
Level 12,  
PO Box A290,  
SYDNEY SOUTH 1232

Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed submission prepared by Nambucca River Branch of New South Wales Farmers Association for your attention and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

June Finlayson, Hon Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J Finlayson".

## REVIEW OF NATIVE VEGETATION LAWS

Submission on behalf of the Nambucca river Branch of New South Wales Farmers.

The existing legislation is complex and ad hoc. Simplification, with clear demarcation of areas of responsibility of relevant authorities and explicit definitions of terms is needed.

Offsets required for clearing are currently onerous and excessive, having the effect of making smaller parcels of land uneconomic, particularly in areas such as the coastal strip intensive horticultural regions.

Clarification of regrowth provisions is necessary for uniform application of the legislation across the State.

Anomalies such as the definition of broadscale clearing must be removed from the Act and the Regulations., eg as it stands it can apply to the removal of single freestanding native plants, something of a contradiction of terms.

The Native Vegetation Act should be the only and final authority and provide a total framework with the result that farmers are not subject to other layers of legislation, for example, local government environmental zones.

Definitions: "invasive species" are not specifically identified by the Act. Of particular concern to local farmers are the species known as "Black Wattle" and "Sally Wattle".

The provisions by which farmers could clear two hectares of land in any twelve month period should be reinstated.

Enforcement provisions of the act should have any element or inference of criminality removed.