

From: alexandra stengl [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 August 2012 10:27 AM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Take action today to protect our native landscapes and wildlife

Dear Sir/Madam

The destruction of finite resources for short term gain is disgraceful. Our governments should be implementing strategies that protect and conserve areas as well as have practices that have long term sustainability objectives so that our communities can grow and have future equity and access to the same opportunities and natural resources that we have now.

By taking away precious forests and biodiversity we are in turn making the call that we are greater than the ecosystem that supports us. This blatant ignorance and decisions made in this manner are unbalanced and potentially irreversible damage will occur.

Pollution and destruction of habitat and arable land for short term housing or exploitative industries can not be replaced.

The Native Vegetation Act and its regulation is one of a number of legislative tools that the Government can use to ensure that some sustainability, equity and preservation occurs. No political party should have greater influence over the standards that our community lives by without having consultation with the broader community.

Any amendments to this Act must accommodate greater commitment to sustainable practices, protection of the environment and ongoing conservation of vegetation communities which support not only the fauna that resides there but the greater intrinsic benefits for the community.

The repeal of this Act by the Shooters and Fishers Party must not occur.

Our state's native vegetation provides essential environmental, social and economic benefits, including protecting water quality, maintaining soil health and providing wildlife habitat for threatened species.

I am strongly opposed to the government's proposal to allow clearing, thinning and burning of large areas of native vegetation without assessment and approval by a Catchment Management Authority. These activities will have a serious impact on the environment, and should not be classified as 'routine agricultural management activities'.

The changes proposed in the draft *Native Vegetation Regulation* will place large areas of native vegetation at risk. The proposal to allow clearing of invasive native species and thinning of native vegetation without advice and approval from a CMA has the potential to result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of hectares of native vegetation. I am also opposed to proposals to weaken offset rules and facilitate clearing of paddock trees and small patches in cultivation.

I am deeply alarmed by news that the Shooters and Fishers Party intend to introduce legislation to repeal the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. We cannot afford to return to the

era of broadscale land clearing, when millions of hectares of forests and woodlands were destroyed. The government must uphold strong native vegetation laws so that we don't return to the unsustainable practices of the past.

We need stronger laws to protect for our wildlife and native vegetation, not weaker ones. I urge you to maintain the environmental protections in our native vegetation regulations, and to vigorously oppose any move to repeal the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

alexandra stengl

2571