From: Monica Flynn [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 23 August 2012 11:06 AM
To: EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox
Subject: Take action today to protect our native landscapes and wildlife

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Leura in the Blue Mountains, I am very concerd about the proposal of the Shooters and Fishers Party to repeal the Native Vegetation Act of 2003.

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*.

Monica Flynn

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