

**From:** Steve Bedford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 August 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox  
**Subject:** Take action today to protect our native landscapes and wildlife

Dear Sir/Madam

The people of the Shooters and Fishers Party represent an colloquial attitude to nature which should now be dead and buried: that is that nature should be primarily regarded as a resource for human use and exploitation. These are the same kind of people who drove 21 species of native animals into extinction and completely destroyed nearly a million square kilometres of forest, woodlands, wetlands and heathlands in this country in less than 200 years. Because of their appalling record the people of the Shooters and Fishers Party and their kind do not deserve a say in the management of our land, its native vegetation or its wildlife. If this bill is successful, it will usher in a new era of environmental destruction every bit as bad as the first 200 years and will lead to more extinctions, more degradation and a dramatic decrease in the remaining level of native vegetation cover in this land. Make no mistake, these people are classic nature-haters and have no regard for the nature of this country. They see native vegetation as an impediment to their insane drive to develop the land entirely for human use. They must be stopped and this bill **MUST** be defeated.

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*.

Steve Bedford

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