

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 August 2012 8:05 PM  
**To:** EHPP Landscapes & Ecosystems Section Mailbox  
**Subject:** Take action today to protect our native landscapes and wildlife

Dear Sir/Madam

It is absolutely vital that the best possible protection is guaranteed for our native vegetation. The Native Vegetation Act 2003 must not be changed to allow any sort of weakening of the protection of landscapes that protect biodiversity, wildlife habitat, water catchment and soil health. If possible they should be made stronger for the benefit of future generations.

We know, from the science available, how important this is.

I urge you to take advice from scientists about the importance of native vegetation and the myriad dangers of broad scale clearing. Whatever the immediate political expediency, the future health of our landscape should be most important and there is clear science to indicate what that should be.

We must have stronger laws to protect our vegetation, our native landscapes and, because of that, our native fauna. Please, do not pander to political opportunism at the expense of our collective future.

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*.