

Biodiversity Review Submission

I am writing this submission to the Biodiversity Review because I am concerned by the trend of Australian governments to ignore science and instead encourage actions which will damage our environment.

I urge that existing biodiversity and conservation legislation, including the provisions of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, must be maintained and strengthened. In view of the major biodiversity losses since European settlement and ongoing removal and economic impacts, there must be an overarching object to protect and conserve biodiversity. The government should ensure the legislation is enforced and use extensive education resources to communicate its importance and provisions.

The principles of ecologically sustainable development, that underpin existing legislation, must be maintained. There must be a clear legislative commitment to maintain or improve environmental outcomes as the key test of clearing proposals. There must be a clear legislative commitment to end broad-scale land clearing across NSW. The NSW government should commit to 'no net loss' of native vegetation reflecting its diversity and value.

The application of important land clearing laws should be extended so that all development (including extractive industry, forestry, urban development and agriculture) subscribes to the same policy of "improving or maintaining" environmental outcomes. Decisions must be based on objective science-based decision making criteria (e.g. Environment Outcomes Assessment Methodology under the NV Act), and discretionary decision making should be very limited.

More than enough land has been cleared to produce food and fibre and on which to improve the productivity of farming.

Drusi Megget



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yours, etc
Drusi Megget