

Submission to the Biodiversity Legislation Review

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Current legislation has caused considerable concern in the landowner community. This has resulted in friction and not achieving positive outcomes. Below are some general observations which would assist in achieving positive outcomes for the triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental.

1. Any legislation should promote that economic, social and environmental values can be complimentary rather than the present case where they are often seen as conflicting.
2. Focus should be on the outcomes you want to achieve rather than what landholders cannot do which is the present approach. Be positive rather than negative and better outcomes will result.
3. There needs to be consistency across all Industries and Land Tenures e.g. when miners can clear land which farmers could not it causes justifiable anger.
4. Support and encourage conservation on non-productive lands e.g. road reserves. This not only increases the area but it sets a positive example for adjacent landowners to expand
5. Incorporate a realistic definition of "Broadscale clearing"
6. An essential component of any legislation should be for the education of the landowners on threatened species identification and management. Once again a positive approach.
7. Those demanding conservation often live in the most degraded landscapes i.e. urban areas. Provision should be made for urban areas to contribute to the conservation on farming landholdings.
8. Methodologies used for assessing natural resources appear to give Yes or No answers (generally No) without transparent justification. There is a strong need to explore "What if" options. In other words allow for compromise to achieve both economic and environmental outcomes. At present the environment outcomes appear to be the only consideration.
9. The three different levels of government have different lists and requirements causing much confusion, duplication and misunderstandings. Landholders think because they have approval from one level that they have all approvals. Some form of central co-ordination is required.