

Biodiversity Legislation Review  
PO Box A290  
Sydney South. NSW 1232

3.9.2014

## Re: Biodiversity Legislation Review Submission

As a private Landholder (42 Hct) of 22 years on the Mid North Coast, a Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service member for 20 years and member of various local community groups I write to express my strong support for the maintenance and strengthening of all biodiversity legislation (including the Native Vegetation Regulation Act 2003, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979).

I am also deeply concerned by the seeming lack of overview and consideration of the big picture within Australia.

**The rivers, vegetation, habitat, logging practices (including regrowth and plantations), mining, development and land clearing must be considered together and not by separate departments who know very little or nothing of the current status of the other.**

When assessing native vegetation on private land no account of the dwindling biodiversity in state forests due to constant logging and regrowth practices for preferred timber species of the time appears to be considered. It is vital the two are considered together within a catchment area.

**The rivers, creeks and vegetation must be considered as one.** Over the last few years my particular catchment has been logged by both private landholders and state forests on both sides of the valley.

As we all know young trees are heavy users of water and consequently, in this particular catchment, we now have many heavy user trees on both sides of the valley and diminished mature trees in the system to hold and release water particularly during drought times. There appears to be no consideration of a sustainable overview of entire ecosystems resulting in the mismanagement of our water supply along with our unique biodiversity.

**With technological advances in satellite data and mapping this should now be attainable and is urgently required for good management of our finite resources.**

**Further it should be a requirement of all agricultural practices to also conserve bush-land areas and riparian zones to ensure the health of the overall property**

**and the crops and/or animals it supports while offsetting the cleared areas and native habitat loss involved. It is imperative that we foster best practice of ecological sustainable development to retain our ability to support future generations.**

Many landholders do far more than any native vegetation regulations may require and are, no doubt, the ones that adhere to best practice. It would be beneficial for the rural community if these landholders were rewarded in some way for best practice (ie. land set aside for biodiversity, riverbank riparian restoration etc). Many landholders do these things at their own expense. Many others are given grants to fix years of their own neglect.

**There must be security for replanting projects that are not government funded.**

Due to dwindling biodiversity across state forests and private land it is essential that protection is strengthened and not watered down by vested interests for private gain. Although the plight of koalas is acknowledged by their vulnerable status the requirements for surveys are flouted on a regular basis and then it is too late, the damage is done and the koalas will die.

**Colonies of tallow wood must be preserved in state forests and on private land for the attendant biota they support and the importance they have to the koala feeding range.** These animals are now so stressed by humans and their attendant pressures on koala habitat that chlamydia once occasional is now rampant.

**We must ensure that our biodiversity is safeguarded with real compliance that will require independent surveys and not rely on surveys by the vested interests of developers, state forests and the timber industry.**

**This is a life support system that must be acknowledged by all government departments and legislation while being considered above profit outcomes.**

**It is also vital that landholders are educated toward more sustainable practices that will have improved outcomes for themselves, their productivity and the environment.** Since the requirements are so complex at least an information sheet, different for each area (ie, coastal, western districts etc) be sent to all landholders setting out what is allowed in their zone and beyond that they must apply to the relevant named body. As a landholder I have never received any information in that regard.

We have the scientific knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of all elements of life on this planet and the ramifications of removing any of those elements are clear. Abundant biodiversity is the key to a sustainable future.

**The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act must remain in Federal hands to ensure an overview of environmental protection on this unique island named Australia.**

Thank you for this opportunity to have some input toward the process and I look forward to a strengthening of Biodiversity Legislation for the benefit of future generations and all life on this planet.

Sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

*I acknowledge the Aboriginal custodians of the land in the region where I live and work and Elders past and present.*