

To whom it may concern:

I am deeply worried that this review will end in a lessening rather than the necessary strengthening of the protective measures for biodiversity in NSW.

I am the owner of a gazetted wildlife refuge and having placed my property under a Voluntary Conservation Agreement in perpetuity ; I have done these things because I see so many diminishing habitats and the value placed on them.

In the Hunter this has been from farming clearing but is recently primarily from coalmining clearing, disguised by the sham of offsets, that are not only like for like but can be themselves offset later for further mining, as with the unique Warkworth Sands. There is an ongoing and accumulating net loss of biodiversity.

This is ludicrously contradictory, and to the detriment of our state.

Any identified adverse impacts on threatened species must be given the power to stop and reject a project, not just attract more 'conditions' given the lack of monitoring and penalising in the system. Paper protections do not work.

In particular the cumulative impacts have not been taken into account as they should be in any realistic assessment.

Underpinning any changes must be the principles of ecologically sustainable development – be it farming or mining.

There should be science-based decisions, not discretionary politically motivated ones. The Independent Scientific Committee must be retained and its advice acted upon.

In urge you to take very seriously the responsibility of providing real protection into the future for our unique flora and fauna. Once gone, it is gone forever. We and they are at a crossroads, with precipices looming on all sides as economic development is being given unequal power – their fate is in your hands.

I urge you to bear in mind that the sustainable way forward is under Triple Bottom Line accounting: People, Planet and Profit. All are important, and none need be to the detriment of the other.

Yours sincerely

Sharyn Munro

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