

From: [REDACTED]
To: [POLICY Conservation & Development Policy Branch Mailbox](#)
Subject: clearing = native planting = smarter balanced growth
Date: Friday, 5 September 2014 3:45:36 PM

Dear Biodiversity Review Panel,

I am writing to comment on the Issues Paper drafted by the Biodiversity Review Panel.

The UN decade on biodiversity, which began in 2011, recognises the global challenge posed by the dramatic decline in species. NSW is contributing to this trend and the Review into conservation legislation is an opportunity to reverse it.

The Review could set a clear goal to reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore ecosystem function across NSW. Below is an overview of significant issues that might be addressed by the Review.

Existing protections are failing us badly,

Existing biodiversity and conservation laws, including the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, could be maintained and strengthened. Including a clear commitment to end erosion prone broad-scale land clearing without native vegetation renewal & native wildlife protections across NSW, and a commitment to 'no net loss' of on property native vegetation. On -property restoration needs to include enforceable wildlife and vegetation zonings overlays by trained land managers in partnership with property owners just like on State Planning SEPs LEPs with Land Management zones incorporated into property plans (Farm Plans). Then we can all get rich and won't fry in our greed. Ahyl!

Frankly? Corporations, especially overseas ones, couldn't care less about Australia's future as long as they assuage their greed and give 'good bottom lion'.

The existing framework of conservation legislation has slowed biodiversity loss, but it is not enough to stop species' decline or erosion because there is no partnering with trained unbribable well paid Land Managers who care about the health and welfare of the country.

Objective decision making will lead to improved environmental outcomes and may even overcome filial connections at Council plan stamping areas where the under the counter payment might be offset at family BBQs or use of a villa in Bennidorm.

The principle of "improving or maintaining" environmental outcomes could be retained, and extended so that it applies to all development activities. Angry landlords might be offered counselling or a free tour of China. Perhaps a free acre in Tasmania.

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 encouraged based on the landlords monetary situation. It's taken only 200 years to wreck Australia so we could invest a few more in say 'rural reconstruction' whilst we await a partial generational turnover. With corporate non family ownership there might be strict adherence to everything environmental. The offsets being free accomodation and meals for Uni & Tafe researchers together with their trained Land Management advisors and an interpreter. Encouragement being a free acre in Tasmania ready to replant with natives..

Biodiversity offsetting needs to be done professionally with the bribes to council employees being detected as soon as possible especially in the tree poisoning & mulching section..

The purpose of offsetting is to ensure than any development that affects biodiversity leads to an overall improvement for wildlife and species. It is important that rules around biodiversity offsetting reflect this key principle.

Where development is approved that significantly impacts native flora or fauna, the 'like for like' offsetting principle is fundamental and must not be weakened. Cats for Bilbies is not acceptable. Although cats crossed with snakes could be a self skinning enterprise for the future out wide.

Retain the Independent Scientific Committee with relevant experience balanced between in the field and in commerce. Road kill meals only whilst in the field and only local supplies & second hand vehicles to be used when out researching thereby maintaining a pretence of Rural Township population stability.

The role of the Independent Scientific Committee under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, to decide which species are threatened and deserve special protection, should be retained. Listing of threatened species must continue to be based on the professional advice of the Scientific Committee although if they don't act quickly and add real world statements like "rehabilitation urgently required" then local Councils will be only too quick to exploit the Clubland connections and perhaps gain an extra week in Bennidorm .

Summary

This review provides a once in a decade opportunity for improving our conservation and biodiversity legislation for posterity. It is absolutely critical that we use this opportunity by taking an evidenced based and scientific approach with a goal towards improving biodiversity across New South Wales whilst maintaining economic flexibility and assistance to family farms to avoid economic hardship through heavy fines on non conforming corporations and Councils involved in business as usual skullduggery.. as they only care about their bottom line. With all planning putting Australian residents first could be considered vital..there is a long road ahead.

But, Hey! You knew that didn't you. Australia is unique...so why join the rush stuff it up?

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Birks