

> I am very disturbed by parts of your
> Review into Biodiversity
> Conservation.
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> The arrival of the First
> Fleet in Australia signalled the
> start of the destruction of biodiversity which has continued to this
> day, resulting in native vegetation communities in most instances now
> being less than 1% of what they were pre-settlement.
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> In the face of widespread
> concern about this issue, the NSW Government in 1995 passed the
> Threatened Species Conservation Act, and in 2003 the Native Vegetation
> Act was legislated. These Acts have seen a turnaround in the massive
> destruction of biodiversity in this state and should not be weakened
> or abandoned.
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> Specifically:
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> There needs to be an
> across all departments policy and framework to maintain or
> improve the
> natural environment, particularly environmental outcomes as the
> underlying
> basis and test of all clearing proposals. It is time once and for
> all for an end to broadscale land clearing, and any new
> legislation must
> reflect this commitment. This legislation should
> also contain a 'no net loss' provision for native vegetation,
> thus
> reflecting its importance in diversity, and its value in benefits
> such as
> erosion control, salinity mitigation, pollination, pest control,
> and
> protection from strong winds and weather for stock and crops. A
> widespread education program outlining
> these benefits is essential. These Acts concerning
> landclearing should also be extended to cover industry (including
> mining),
> forestry, urban development and agriculture. Over 90% of our
> once great forests have
> been cleared and the consequences are now being felt across
> Australia. The cumulative effects of
> previous landclearing must be taken into account in assessing new
> proposals for landclearing and development.
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> This legislation must be
> enforced, alongside an extensive
> education program and resources to communicate the benefits and
> importance of ecologically sustainable development. Our country's
> future prosperity depends on it.

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> Yours

> sincerely

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> Kay

> Binns

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