

Submission for the Biodiversity Review:

To whom it may concern;

I am concerned about the proposed review of biodiversity legislation.

There needs to be better logic applied to these pieces of legislation which seemed to have been applied as a blanket measure to stop land clearing. For example the understanding by farmers that one must not disturb a paddock of native grasses is ridiculous. Maybe this was misunderstood but i know of several farmers who thought this was ridiculous and chose to simply ignore it.

There is also the example of farmers believing that they cannot clear invasive woody species. Whether they may have been allowed or not is not the point. It is the over zealous behaviour of some government agent who have given the impression that such clearing cannot be done. People have avoided applying for permit to clear and simply been prepared to pay the fine afterwards. This is no way to try to prevent clearing of native vegetation and maintain biodiversity. It is too late when the job is done.

Lets develop an attitude of co-operation rather than aggression towards the farmer who, these days, is struggling to hold everything together.

If there are to be changes lets put plenty of time and planning into it and make them sensible and workable and an example to the rest of the world

We should maintain the "like for like" offsets currently in place for large mining projects. They must become a priority rather than be used as an addition to a proposal. Great care should be taken so that the local climate and soils are also considered alike.

The above points are some aspects that i am familiar with and i hope that good logic, sensibility and adequate considerations for climate change are all put in place during this review.

Before closing i would like to add my concern about the land clearing for a four lane section of the Pacific Highway to be built, i think, near Ballina. It is known that this section of road is to be built through an area where there is an established Koala colony.

How well do we respect one of the Australian iconic native animals in its wild state.

Why on earth can't we build this road AROUND the colony ??

Oh yes, it would cost more but many of us see government money being wasted in so many ways that about 90% of the population of NSW would rather see the road cost a lot more and save the colony in its present state.

How many people would like a public bike pathway built through their lounge room? I WONDER ? There would be a public outcry. Lets leave the poor Koals alone !

However we try to build underpasses or bridges many Koalas will die or be killed by -

- trees being pushed over with the land being cleared,**
- machinery killing them in the understorey as they try to run for their lives,**
- predatory animals as they are trapped in the underpasses,**
- severe stress as they are separated from their partners and offspring,**

- such dramatic changes in their environment as the bulldozers come in and knock down their favourite food and rest trees,
- the workers and vehicles destroy any scent trails they have made between trees or sleep habitats.

THERE IS SO MUCH WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT HOW ANIMALS COMMUNICATE AND LIVE THEIR LIVES IN THE WILD THAT WE ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT DO THIS BASTARD OF AN ACT AGAINST THIS KOALA COLONY.

WHO APPROVED THE LAND CLEARING FOR THIS SECTION OF HIGHWAY ? CAN THE ROADS PEOPLE DO WHAT THEY LIKE ? I BET THE FARMERS WHO LIVE NEXT DOOR ARE NOT ALLOWED TO KNOCK DOWN MORE THAN 10 TREES PER YEAR !!

Yours in concern,

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