



Biodiversity Legislation Review PO Box A290 Sydney South NSW 1232

26 August 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the biodiversity legislation review.

I support retention of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. I support the government becoming serious about biodiversity conservation as the past record of species loss is terrible. I would support more emphasis on protection and improvement of the health of ecological communities so that species can prosper in situ.

All decisions on land clearing should be based on the best available science.

We must have an overarching object to protect and conserve biodiversity or we will continue on the sad path we are on.

An important part of the existing legislation is that they acknowledge the need for ecologically sustainable development. This is essential if we are serious about species and ecological community protection.

Wherever clearing is allowed there must be a commitment to maintain or improve environmental outcomes. If clearing is allowed it must only be allowed if there is sufficient of that same ecological community remaining for species to prosper.

We must as a community and as the government commit to "no net loss" of native vegetation. We must declare an end to broad scale land clearing.

Where development is approved that significantly impacts native flora or fauna, the 'like for like' offsetting principle is fundamental and must not be weakened.

The Scientific Committee under the TSC Act is an important body basing its deliberations and advice on science without political interference.

Proper enforcement is important. This means proper education about the needs for these controls and biodiversity.

Yours sincerely

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