

- Existing biodiversity and conservation legislation, including the provisions of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, must be maintained and strengthened.
- The principles of ecologically sustainable development underpinning existing legislation should be maintained, and there must be a clear legislative commitment to maintain or improve environmental outcomes as the key test of land clearing proposals.
- There must be legislation to end broad-scale land clearing across NSW. The NSW government should commit to 'no net loss' of native vegetation. This needs to include the whole gamut of diversity of our flora and fauna, not just rainforest and koalas.
- All development (including mining, forestry, urban development and agriculture) should have to improve or maintain environmental outcomes.
- 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 very limited.
- 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 role of the Independent Scientific Committee under the TSC Act should be retained and listing must continue to be based on the professional advice of the Scientific Committee.
- Routine Agricultural Management Activities (RAMAs) should be restricted to genuinely low impact activities, and cumulative impact must be a key consideration in assessing clearing and development proposals.
- The government should ensure land clearing legislation is enforced. Don't let law breakers get away with doing so. No one else in the community does.
- Farmers should be encouraged to preserve native vegetation and animals especially on marginal land, including controlling weeds and feral animals, and consideration should be given to funding them to do so.
- Reducing red tape may help frustrated farmers but should not be used to implement poor policy.
- National Parks should be fully protected, not opened up for commercial use and fully funded to control feral animals.

