

5 September, 2014

The Chairperson.
Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel.

Curl Curl Lagoon Friends Inc; is a vibrant community based environment organisation comprising 160 + households membership formed in July, 1980, represented on several Warringah Council committees, carries out bush regeneration, wildlife surveys and publishes a widely distributed newsletter three times per year.

CCLFInc; takes this opportunity and urges the Panel to respond for the strengthening of NSW biodiversity and environmental legislation and regulation, importantly, the policing and enforcement compliance vital for their effectiveness.

At first hand we can identify with the very real need for stronger environment protection legislation from our local bushcare of the lagoon, dunes area and headland...Our ongoing conservation work and recorded surveys and observations shows the sharp decline in both native fauna and flora species...This is not only decline in the number of native species but that particular species has become extinct in that area.

Perhaps, a typical example is the ongoing surveys of bird species within the boundaries of John Fisher Park – 133 ha – surrounding Curl Curl Lagoon.
A controlled survey by a voluntary ranger in 1978 recorded 74 native bird species
A similar survey in 1996 recorded 44 bird species included 3 feral bird species.
From experienced observers it is now estimated there is less than 20 native bird species remaining
Fauna and reptile species once prolific in those areas are now gone.

Loss of habitat, excessive land clearing, lack of public awareness to plant native bird attracting plants and dogs to name a few but importantly a failure of political will and commitment at every level to adequately protect our unique natural heritage....An important lesson where proper compliance failed .

We believe that these are some of the valid examples for serious concerns locally that arch over the longer term consequences when soil erosion, salinity, depletion and contamination of ground water and the scourge of illegal land clearing are not corrected....Clean air and safe water supplies contribute directly for the health and well being of all citizens...Equally, the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 are vital for the health and well being of the natural environment that must not be devalued but strengthened for the immediate and future benefits they provide for in the public interest. ..

Thank you

Dave Platter

2014 President

Curl Curl Lagoon Friends

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