

Anne and Peter Reeves



5 September 2014

biodiversity.legislationreview@environment.nsw.au

## Independent Review on Biodiversity Legislation

We submit the following points for consideration in response to the invitation for comment

- 1 Conservation of the natural environment and ecosystem processes are critical to the sustaining of life in all its diverse forms - its biodiversity - of which humans are a component.
- 2 Robust biodiversity legislation is an essential tool of good governance on behalf of the community.
- 3 It is important that NSW biodiversity legislative provisions are in no way diluted or weakened. Loss of habitat through modification, removal and fragmentation of native vegetation has long been recognised as a major driver in species loss: halting this loss, and maintaining/enhancing ecological connectivity is a critical aspect that needs to be underpinned by effective legislation. It is also important to retain the robustness of independent scientific advice as enshrined in the Threatened Species Act.
- 4 There are many instances where failure to consider the adverse environmental implications of proposed change have resulted in significant and sometimes long-lasting damage that is costly to repair if indeed possible. Loss of species and ecosystems through extinction is forever.
- 5 Improved integration of legislative provisions concerned with biodiversity conservation is desirable in order to deliver better outcomes with less conflict; however it is by no means clear that a single biodiversity act will provide the required outcome, particularly if some of the perverse and conflicting powers in other legislative instruments, such as the mining legislation are not removed.
- 6 Biodiversity legislation alone cannot deliver biodiversity conservation. This requires appropriate integration of ecologically sustainable principles within a whole range of legislative provisions including Planning and natural resource and invasive species management. It also requires whole of government commitment, including action on climate change.

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