

Dear Biodiversity Review Panel,

I wish to comment on the Issues Paper from the Biodiversity Review Panel.

I have been a Bushcare volunteer for over 20 years and I do not feel that the NSW governments (past and present) are supporting my efforts, where they can - in fact our efforts are mostly being undermined. I am only one of about 400 bushcare/landcare volunteers in the Blue Mountains.

NSW has very wishy washy legislation and seriously under-resourced conservation agencies and enforcement.

I am concerned about the continuing decline in species in NSW. The Review should have a clear objective to reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore ecosystems.

Existing legislation is not working, mostly it just puts processes in place, and does not prescribe outcomes; eg the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

These should be strengthened significantly - not got rid of! Legislation is needed to end broad-scale land clearing across NSW, and to ensure 'no net loss' of native vegetation.

The Biodiversity offset mechanism needs to improve - it is not achieving what was promised. The 'like for like' offsetting principle is a key to this, and must be rigorously applied. This is not happening.

Listing of threatened species must continue to be based on the professional independent advice of the Scientific Committee.

Yours sincerely,
Lyndal Sullivan