

SUBMISSION – Biodiversity Conservation

As a land holder in the Mt Royal area I am concerned about the threat to native flora and fauna in my area and I feel a strengthening of the existing biodiversity and conservation legislation is required. I have witnessed the loss of native flora and fauna on my property and many adjoining properties due to land clearing, mining and feral animals.

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.

The government should ensure the legislation is enforced and use extensive education resources to communicate its importance and provisions.

The endangered Spotted Tail Quoll has disappeared from my property and I feel an infestation of rabbits will result.

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has played an important role in identifying, increasing scrutiny of and seeking to ameliorate the threats that target biodiversity and important habitat.

There are a number of key areas where the protection of threatened species could be strengthened:

- The legislation should require development of recovery plans and critical habitat designation for all species, populations and ecological communities listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* within 4 years. Suitable funding for the development and implementation of these plans must be provided.
- Databases can be improved so that cumulative impact can be adequately assessed.

I request that the NSW Government strengthen our laws to save Biodiversity and protect our endangered flora and fauna as well as continue to enforce existing legislation.

Yours sincerely

Marg Edwards

