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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, April 27, 2025 10:09:17 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, April 27, 2025 10:14:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:10
IP Address: [REDACTED]

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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

Q3

Email

[REDACTED]

Q4

Yes

Can we contact you about your submission (if needed)?

Q5

Yes

Can we add your email to our mailing list for occasional updates on this topic?

Q6

Other (please specify).:
Concerned citizen

What best describes you?

Q7

None of the above (I have a general interest in the topic)

What best describes your main regional interest?

Q8

Your submission may be published. If you do not want your personal details or responses published, please tell us here.

I agree to have my submission published anonymously
– please remove my name before publishing.

Q9

What do you consider is the most significant action(s) we can undertake to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem function on private lands?

Based on the attached Terms of Reference document, one of the most significant actions to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem function on private lands in NSW would be to expand and support incentives for landholders. Incentivizing conservation efforts – whether through direct funding, market access for natural capital programs, or payments for ecosystem services – can motivate private landholders to actively manage their land for biodiversity outcomes. Since the document emphasizes enhancing the "value and support for landholders," strong economic and social incentives will be critical for securing large-scale participation in conservation efforts, especially in regional landscapes where private land dominates.

Another key action would be strengthening the transparency, awareness, and management frameworks under the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Clear, accessible information, better monitoring, and more consistent support services (including Aboriginal land management practices) would help ensure that conservation measures are adopted and sustained over time. Integrating evidence-based practices, addressing unallocated clearing, and making restoration activities easier to understand and access will improve biodiversity and ecosystem function across private rural landscapes.

Q10

How can we further improve soil, water and vegetation management to protect and restore biodiversity while delivering sustainable economic outcomes?

To further improve NSW's soil, water, and vegetation management while protecting biodiversity and supporting sustainable economic outcomes, a key strategy is integrating regenerative land management practices more widely across private lands. Practices such as maintaining permanent ground cover, rotational grazing, rehydrating landscapes through water-spreading structures, and promoting native vegetation corridors can simultaneously improve soil health, water retention, and biodiversity habitat. These techniques reduce erosion, enhance soil carbon, and increase drought resilience while maintaining or even boosting agricultural productivity – thereby aligning ecological restoration with long-term economic benefits for landowners.

Additionally, incentivising and scaling natural capital markets could create strong economic drivers for conservation-minded management. Programs that reward landholders for improving soil carbon stocks, protecting riparian vegetation, or restoring degraded ecosystems would link biodiversity outcomes directly to income generation. Helping these efforts with clearer instructions, funding for large projects, and easier access to biodiversity stewardship programs would make soil, water, and plant health key parts of both environmental and economic sustainability in regional areas of NSW.

Q11

What do you consider is the most effective way to further support and enable landholders to deliver sustainable land management and production outcomes?

The most effective way to further support and enable landholders to deliver sustainable land management and production outcomes is to combine strong financial incentives with practical, locally tailored support services. Making it easier for landholders to get paid for conservation efforts, like stewardship payments, grants, or rewards from markets (like biodiversity credits or soil carbon trading), can help them see the financial benefits of protecting the land. At the same time, providing ongoing help through training, support services, and personal advice will give landholders the skills and confidence they need to use sustainable practices successfully. Support needs to be consistent, transparent, and easily accessible – not buried in complex bureaucracy.

Equally important is building strong, trusted regional networks that connect landholders with each other, scientists, and government agencies. Regional Landcare groups, Local Land Services, and Aboriginal land managers all have deep local knowledge that can help tailor solutions to different landscapes and enterprises. Empowering these networks, funding peer-to-peer learning, and celebrating landholder success stories would create a culture where sustainable land management is not just supported – it is valued, visible, and normalized across the rural economy.

Q12

Is there any other information about this topic you would like to share with us?

One important point to consider is that supporting landholders to deliver sustainable outcomes must recognise the diversity of motivations, challenges, and landscapes across NSW. A “one-size-fits-all” approach often fails. Successful programs should offer flexible options – from small, simple actions (like protecting remnant vegetation) to larger landscape-scale projects – and allow landholders to choose what fits their business, values, and land condition. Tailoring incentives and advice to different farm sizes, industries, and cultural contexts (including Aboriginal land management practices) will make programs much more effective. It’s also crucial to frame sustainable land management as an opportunity, not just a responsibility. Messaging that highlights how improving biodiversity, soil health, and water management can increase farm resilience, productivity, and market access (e.g., premium markets demanding sustainability) will motivate more participation. Positive recognition, simple application processes, and long-term program certainty are just as important as funding in making sustainable land management the default choice, not an extra burden.
