

#23

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, April 25, 2025 7:43:13 AM
Last Modified: Friday, April 25, 2025 8:34:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:51:34
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

Respondent skipped this question

What best describes you?

Q7

Statewide NSW

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?

Strengthen environmental protections to stop excessive land clearing. This must include both education of landholders as well as investing in staff to both support and enforce these actions. The approval system needs to have Government oversight and transparent reporting.

This must replace the current self-approval and self-assessment provisions of the current laws which have never and will never work. This is obvious given the rate of clearing (both "legal" and illegal) in cities and regional areas. After these laws came into force in 2017, land clearing rates on private property have tripled.

The anomaly that exempts land cleared before 1990 exacerbates this as the areas being cleared may now contain regrown forests and woodlands can provide valuable habitat and food for threatened species.

Q10

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

The view of many landowners that trees and vegetation are disposable and have no intrinsic worth must be addressed by education and support. We need to shift the culture so that landowners value native vegetation on their land and are incentivised to protect it rather than destroy it. There must be a strong regulatory system that includes education and engagement to encourage landholders to protect native vegetation. Protecting native regrowth is more cost-effective and efficient than planting new trees.

If this is not done, even large fines can be seen as an acceptable cost of "doing business".

Q11

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

As stated above, policies, regulations and reforms must be accompanied by commitment to clear communication and engagement with both the general public and landowners and developers in particular.

There should be no excuse that landholders are unaware of the laws and the resources available. There needs to be a clear and easily available and usable platform that landholders can use to make decisions, so that people understand what biodiversity values are on their land.

We need more permanent staff working in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Local Land Services. Without increased staffing to support and enforce the laws, the current rate of clearing and violation will continue.

Q12

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

I urge the Government to make these changes this year. Nature areas and trees in NSW have been destroyed at an alarming rate with the collateral decline and extinction of native species due to habitat and wildlife corridor destruction. We have a duty to protect what is left.
