#40

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, April 27, 2025 11:54:40 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, April 27, 2025 12:36:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:41:32
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 **I am representing an NGO or community group.**

What best describes you?

Q7 **Greater Sydney**

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?

Currently the laws rely on landowners' self-assessment of whether they can clear their land. This has led to an unsustainable level of clearing on private land that is degrading our biodiversity and soil and releasing greenhouse emissions.
The NSW Government needs to ensure that clearing is only at acceptable levels based in scientific understanding of the ecosystems that will be affected, impact on threatened species and the cumulative impacts of clearing activities within the relevant region. Cumulative impacts considered should include impacts on wildlife corridors and migration pathways.
There needs to be Government regulation of clearing on private land through a clear approval process that helps landowners understand their obligations and the impacts clearing will have on the long term qualities of their land such as water retention and erosion protection.
Land cleared before 1990 should not be excluded from the regulation system. Regrowth over 35 since 1990, assuming there have been areas allowed to regrow over the intervening 35 years, will be providing valuable habitat and ecosystem services.

Q10

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

Education and research are the keys to improving land management. Science and diagnostic tools are improving all the time, particularly in the areas of soil nutrient understanding and the role of mycorrhizal fungi in plant health.

Q11

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

Education courses (online?) should be available to landowners to help them understand how to better manage their land.
Financial incentives should be expanded to encourage landowners to set aside land areas for biodiversity conservation. It would be valuable to explore methods of conserving land areas without the formality of a conservation agreement.

Q12

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

Please expedite these changes. Too often a consultation process takes place but the report sits on the shelf for a long time. These changes will require an increase in funding and staffing of Local Land Services that is long overdue.