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Page 1

Q1

First name
David

Q2

Last name
Martin

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 Other (please specify):
What best describes your main regional interest? I am writing on behalf of the Hornsby Conservation Society as President

Q8

I agree to have my submission published with my name.

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

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?

There is an essential need to remove the existing code- based land clearing laws allowances under the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018, empowered by the Land Services Act 2013. These laws allow land -owners to make their own assessment enabling rampant and land clearing. Since these laws were passed in 2017, land clearing on private property has tripled resulting in an average of 84,000 hectares of bushland per year on private properties. This is unsustainable and unacceptable. Valued habitat of our native flora and fauna is being lost, our valued native birdlife species numbers as a result are in rapid decline with more species facing threatened and endangered listing. A more meaningful and clear approval pathway should be introduced by the NSW Government to reduce land clearing to protect habitat. The approval system should have Government oversight and transparent reporting. Exemptions under legislation for land cleared before 1990 under current rules in NSW is outdated and needs to be changed. It shown that is important to include policies that retain both young and old forests which can provide valuable habitat for Koalas who feed on young leaves, greater gliders and owls require the older mature trees with their hollows for security and breeding.

Q10

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

Once a native original vegetation is destroyed it is extremely difficult to restore it to its original state, regrowth of native vegetation should be earnestly encouraged . A culture shift is needed so that landowners are incentivised to protect their land. A strong regulatory system supported by strong education and engagement that makes landowners aware of the law changes and how to apply them should be provided. Many land owners should also learn to value and protect native flora and fauna. Positive financial economic incentives should easily be made available for those willing to participate. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) funding and staffing should be increased to scale up the number of private properties entering conservation agreements.

Q11

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

Provide a forcible native vegetation regulatory map so that people can understand the biodiversity values on their land. Reduction in the loan interest rates for land owners through bank regulation. More financial and medical aid should be given to landowners in rural districts.

Q12

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

Having travelled extensively throughout NSW and stayed on many grazing properties over the past 48years bird watching and enjoying country hospitality, I am of the opinion that there is a sense of urgency for this action. The current and past rates of land degradation is leaving a terrible legacy for future generations.

As advised by several graziers, large areas of farming land have been purchased by overseas corporations, providing their own labour (not sourcing local labour, provisions or business of the local towns people), carrying out broadscale clearing to the detriment of local country townspeople and massive habitat reduction. It should not have been allowed.
