

#35

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Q1

First name

Kate

Q2

Last name

Eccles OAM

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 Statewide NSW
What best describes your main regional interest?

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?

1. Land clearing on private land should not be self-assessable. The laws and codes which allow self-assessment should be changed.
 2. Better vegetation mapping is required. Currently native vegetation can be cleared if threatened species are not affected. Land holders may not be aware of threatened and vulnerable species on their land or of general biodiversity.
 3. Permission for land clearing, whether refused or granted, needs oversight and reporting.
 4. If there is regrowth on land cleared prior to 1990, the land should be reassessed and regulated so that the regrowth is retained.
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Q10

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

1. The Local Land Services Manager should actively promote the value of native vegetation and encourage conservation, preservation and restoration. Retaining or restoring vegetation near watercourses and on hillsides will assist with erosion and degradation of land and the quality of soil, while allowing continued use of the land for pasture or cropping.
 2. Assisting community activity could improve morale and pleasure in retaining native vegetation.
 3. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust can help with funding and with arranging voluntary conservation agreements to protect land and habitats in perpetuity. More staff and greater funding for the Trust could achieve greater success in attracting these conservation arrangements.
 4. If certain properties closer to the coast and cities become "hobby" or "lifestyle" holdings, there may be less awareness of the codes and regulations. There may also be a greater willingness to set aside land for native vegetation and habitat if the economics are not the top priority of the landholder.
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Q11

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

1. The Local Land Services needs to ensure that landholders are aware of what is, and what is not permissible on their land. Communication with landholders needs to be improved. An easy to use but detailed web platform should be developed and updated as necessary.
 2. Up-to-date maps of vegetation explaining the biodiversity of the land are essential. The maps must include threatened species, vulnerable species, ecological communities and migratory species.
 3. Assisting community activity could improve morale and pleasure in retaining native vegetation.
 4. Personal involvement of the Local Land Services could assist in the development of community awareness, knowledge and appreciation.
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Q12

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

Some members of The Mosman Parks & Bushland Association have been part of volunteer teams with Birdlife Australia's project for the Regent honeyeater in the Capertee Valley. Birdlife Australia finds landholders who are willing to set aside land for replanting native vegetation. Volunteer teams arrive and plant trees and understory shrubs. This has been a community effort for over 30 years, and the community is enthusiastic and proud of its success.

If the land is sold, caveats can be arranged so that the vegetated section of the property will be maintained in perpetuity.

There may be a role for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to do something similar.
