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COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

Roslyn

Q2

Last name

Irwin

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

The NSW Government must revoke the land clearing allowances under the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018, based on the Local Land Services Act 2013. These laws allow landowners to self-assess and clear land, leading to rampant deforestation. Since their enactment in 2017, private land clearing rates have tripled, averaging 84,000 hectares over five years. This level of clearing is unsustainable. The government should implement an approval system with oversight and transparent reporting to protect habitats. Current rules exempt land cleared before 1990 from regulation, which needs updating as such lands may now contain valuable native regrowth. Research shows regrown forests can support threatened species after 15 years, with some like koalas using regrowth as young as nine years. Policies should retain both young and mature forests to support diverse wildlife.

Q10

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

To encourage landowners to protect native vegetation, we need a strong regulatory system backed by education and engagement. Landowners should understand the laws and benefits of preserving biodiversity and productive land. The system should include economic incentives, and funding for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) should be increased to expand conservation agreements. Additionally, protecting regrowth vegetation is more cost-effective and efficient than planting new trees.

Q11

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

Policies and reforms should be supported by a clear communications and engagement plan. Research conducted by the Local Land Services indicated that many landholders are unaware of the existing rules and resources. A centralized platform is needed for landholders to make informed decisions, which includes a complete and enforceable native vegetation regulatory map to help people understand the biodiversity values on their land. Additionally, there is a need for more permanent staff in the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Local Land Services. Increased staffing will facilitate the implementation and expansion of conservation initiatives with landholders.

Q12

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

Please do make these changes and urgently. As a great grandmother who has spent many years revegetating a remnant rainforest and so aware of the changes being wrought by climate change, there isn't much time to implement the changes that are essential to conserve our diminishing natural resources.
