



**3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011**

Our Ref: A502666

Your Ref:

Mr Alex McMillan  
Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 4206  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**Attention:** Environmental Outcomes assessment Methodology

Dear Alex,

**Re: Proposed Amendments to the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology**

This submission is provided in response to the proposed solutions to streamline the assessment process for native vegetation.

The Border Rivers - Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) endorses the proposed changes to the Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology (EOAM). The proposed changes will be a first step to simplifying the process for assessing Property Vegetation Plans whilst ensuring the "*maintain or improve*" environmental outcome is retained.

The experience of the Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA is that the current administrative process in applying the EOAM is inefficient, in particular with respect to the assessment of Property Vegetation Plan scenarios relating to scattered paddock trees.

The Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA has participated in testing of the revised Chapter 8 in collaboration with other CMAs and is confident that the changes will result in more efficient delivery of the Native Vegetation Act and Regulation.

In addition, our stakeholders have not raised any negative feedback on the changes and were supportive of any solutions that would decrease the time taken for Property Vegetation Plan assessment.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on phone (02) 6728 8025 or 0427 959 464 if you wish to discuss this matter further or require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Hutchings  
General Manager