



# The Hon Robyn Parker MP

## Minister for the Environment

## Minister for Heritage

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### REVIEW OF NATIVE VEGETATION LAWS

Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, today announced the commencement of a statutory review of the Native Vegetation Management Regulations in NSW.

“Over the last 16 years, the previous government introduced a series of prescriptive policies and procedures to regulate native vegetation management,” Minister Parker said.

“Over that time, the approach changed from heavy-handed regulations, to a regional planning model, to ultimately a system that currently provides for landholders to sign up to individual agreements.

“This has seen approvals for native vegetation removal reduced from around 80,000 hectares per year down to an average of 2,750 hectares per year over the past 5 years.

“However, the cycle of Labor and Green policy experimentation has left many in the farming and natural resource management communities disenfranchised over Native Vegetation management.

“While the policy in place does address some issues, it still involves a swathe of red tape and a lack of strategic direction,” Ms Parker said.

“It’s for these reasons that I have decided to undertake a full review of the Regulations.

“We’ll be looking at where the current regulations can be simplified and can foster a more strategic approach. We want to make sure that the regulations are sensible, balanced and effective to help ensure we get the best possible environmental and economic outcomes.

“As I told Parliament, the Liberals & Nationals Government’s position going into the review is that we support the objects of the Native Vegetation Act to protect native vegetation of high conservation value, to prevent broad-scale land-clearing unless it improves or maintains environmental outcomes, and encourages the revegetation of lands,” Ms Parker said.

The Review will be carried out with the guidance of the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Department of Primary Industries and the Catchment Management Authorities.

It will involve a full stakeholder engagement and consultation process.

The review is expected to take up to 12 months and will be divided into the following stages:

- Scoping the range of changes with key stakeholders groups including the NSW Farmers’ Association, the Nature Conservation Council and others;
- Preparation of a draft Regulation and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement;

- Community consultation – exhibition of the draft Regulation giving industry associations, individuals, stakeholder groups and others an opportunity to express their views about the draft Regulation.

Those with an interest in the management of native vegetation in NSW are encouraged to participate in the review progresses.

The review will drive improved performance and help the Government make informed choices about the need for changes to the principal statutory instrument, i.e. the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

Further information is available at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation) and you can register to participate by emailing to [native.vegetation@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:native.vegetation@environment.nsw.gov.au)