

**Native Vegetation Regulation Review
Conservation Policy and Strategy Section
Level 12, PO Box A290
Sydney South NSW 1232**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of NSW I am concerned about various aspects of the Native Vegetation Act and Regulations and propose various changes as below.

Regards

**Graham Williamson
PO Box 961
Riverwood
NSW 2210**

Submission on the Review of the Native Vegetation Regulation

I am concerned about serious problems with the native vegetation laws.

I am concerned that the current Review has ignored major economic, social and environmental costs imposed by the Native Vegetation Regulation.

I am concerned that the proposed changes do not guarantee important protections for landholders and local communities. Protection of private property rights must be strengthened but the new proposals make no commitment in this regard. Government moves to erode property rights and devalue private land by rezoning are fundamentally unjust, divisive, and unsustainable. The NSW Government must reverse this unsustainability and respect private property rights by delivering on its commitments to protect the rights of landholders and restore the public's confidence in the Native Veg Act by:

1. Proactively moving to strengthen and protect private property rights and ensure that **genuine democratic sustainability, community participation and social cohesion, particularly involving effected landholders**, is the overarching objective of the new system.
2. Guaranteeing that the new system will be genuinely democratic and people centred and will bring to an end the adversarial and divisive nature of the present system. The Government must ensure that in transitioning to the new system, important private property protections are strengthened.
3. Environmental policies must be based upon genuine science and protections should be inserted to prevent any influence from environmental activist groups. Any environmental studies must be fully transparent and performed by independent scientists and include processes for effective local community engagement. Decisions must be based upon empirical science and democratic local community engagement.
4. The environmental destructiveness of oil and gas industries must be recognised by giving landholders the right to completely deny access to such companies without fear of any repercussions.
6. Any devaluation of private land as a result of rezoning decisions must be adequately compensated by the zoning authority.

7. By proactively seeking to unite the community rather than divide the community.

I call on the government to re-do the Regulatory Impact Statement properly.

I submit that the Regulatory Impact Statement must wherever possible quantify the costs of the Regulation that were ignored, including:

- the extent to which the native vegetation Regulation promotes weeds, and is actively worse for biodiversity, sustainability and native ecology
- the costs in terms of reduced productivity; and costs to recover lost productivity
- the cost of all federal, state and local government salaries, taxation, superannuation, all leave categories, offices, cars, phones, mobile phones, training, travel, and accommodation devoted to promoting, making, administering and enforcing the native vegetation laws
- the number of pages of rules and regulations a farmer would need to read to know what he can do on his own property and get permission
- the time and money costs to all farmers of compliance, administration and resource allocation
- the number of jobs, businesses and industries destroyed
- the number of people dispossessed of their farms as a result of the native vegetation laws
- costs in terms of rural depression, social breakdown, suicide
- the extent to which the native vegetation laws have reduced local council services including roads; the funds they would need to comply
- the difference between the value of lands with, versus without the Native Vegetation Regulation
- the high value of the principles of innocent until proven guilty, protection from search without warrant, the privilege against self-incrimination, Constitutional protection of property rights, etc.
- reduction in value of food and clothing produced; and the number of people in the world going without food as a result of the Native Vegetation laws
- the personal costs to the supporters of the legislation.