



**NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc**

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The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP  
Minister for the Environment and Local Government  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie St Sydney 2000

26 August 2017,

Dear Minister,

**RE: Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017**

On Friday 25/8, I heard you speaking with Wendy Harmer on radio 702 about the new laws. Your scripted answers to some of Ms Harmer's well researched questions were very disappointing.

I was particularly disappointed in your reply about community consultation. I wrote to you on 9 June 2017 asking for your assurances that your new portfolio was completely understood by your office. I also asked for a meeting with you to discuss the complex and disturbing aspects of the draft legislation.

I have not yet received your reply.

That letter contains half a dozen of the most concerning aspects of this new Act. Two of the issues with which you seemed to entirely agree, are Offsets via a BioBanking scheme and Unassessed or Self-assessed land clearing.

In respect of both those issues, we say that there should be no more land clearing anywhere in NSW. Already, in parts of the coastal strip and the western slopes and plains, up to 90% of the original forests are gone! (see Ocean Shores to Desert Dunes, David Keith, NPWS NSW).

Once a 200 year old tree is destroyed, no amount of money or planting (offsetting or banking money to buy another block elsewhere) will bring back that *precise habitat* in that *precise spot*. 1000s of creatures will be lost just by removing ONE tree!

Yes, I heard of your interest in Koalas. And we cannot afford to lose even one more individual of that iconic tourist attraction. But we are in trouble if we cannot save ants, bees, pollinator bird species and unique Australian mammals.

Once again, Minister, I ask for an interview with you to discuss the serious changes in laws which protect our bush. I will nominate one of my colleagues at Birding NSW to meet as well

Sincerely

Ian Bailey  
Office of Conservation  
Birding NSW (NSW FOC inc)

CC Premier Berejiklian 26/8/17.