



URGENT: NATURE LAWS TO BE SCRAPPED

NSW Government plans to gut important land clearing laws putting wildlife at risk

Unless we act now, Premier Baird's proposed changes to our land clearing laws will push many of our threatened plants and animals to the brink of extinction. We must stop Premier Baird's blueprint for extinction becoming law.

The proposed new laws will:

- Repeal the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, and replace them with a *Biodiversity Conservation Bill* and *Local Land Services Amendment Bill*;
- Remove the requirement to 'maintain or improve biodiversity' leading to a decline in environmental outcomes, soil health, water quality and salinity;
- Reduce the role of the Environment Minister in important environmental decisions;
- Expand the use of 'self-assessable' codes allowing landholders to clear trees with little oversight; and
- Increase the use of biodiversity offsets allowing landholders to clear trees in exchange for paying money into a fund.

Nature is in Crisis

Over the last 200 years our natural heritage has been in dramatic decline with over 100 plant and animal species now extinct. There are now 1001 species of plants and animals threatened with extinction in New South Wales. Even the treasured koala has declined by 40% in the last 20 years alone.

Land clearing and habitat loss is the single biggest cause of species loss in NSW. Protecting habitat and controlling land clearing is essential if further plant and animal extinctions are to be avoided.

Get involved and stand up for nature

These proposed changes are a significant backwards step for nature in NSW. They will result in the death of thousands of animals every year, and take NSW down the same dangerous path of broad-scale land clearing that recently devastated hundreds of thousands of hectares of bushland in Queensland.

Unless Premier Baird changes course, his new laws will:

- Add extinction pressures to our state's 1001 threatened animal and plant species;
- Threaten our clean, reliable water supplies;
- Turn fertile farms into wasteland through erosion and salinity;
- Put landmark trees and bushland in our towns and suburbs at risk; and
- Release millions of tonnes of carbon pollution into our atmosphere.

We must put a stop to Premier Baird's blueprint for extinction. Take action at:

Nature Conservation Council of NSW: www.nature.org.au Stand up for Nature: www.standupfornature.org.au

To volunteer contact Corinne Fisher on cfisher@tec.org.au