

Submission
No 6

**INQUIRY INTO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
AMENDMENT (BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SCHEME) BILL
2024**

Organisation: Friends of Berowra Valley

Date Received: 5 September 2024



Friends of Berowra Valley Inc

Re: **Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill 2024**

5 September 2024

Friends of Berowra Valley are an environmental group whose focus is to protect the natural landscape, heritage and biodiversity of Berowra Valley.

We have been fighting a community campaign to protect CEEC at the proposed Westleigh Park as the Hornsby Shire Council has sanctioned 9km of illegal amateur mountain bike tracks through these communities. The council now intends to turn these into 7k of professional mountain bike tracks.

To turn the tide of extinctions the following change to the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 is essential.

Section 3.1 currently reads:

3.1 Declaration of areas of outstanding biodiversity value

- (1) The Minister may, in accordance with this Part, declare any area in the State to be an area of outstanding biodiversity value.
- (2) An area is so declared by publication of a notice of the declaration on the NSW legislation website.

Amended Section 3.1

Section 3.1

3.1 Declaration of areas of outstanding biodiversity value

- (1) Any ecological community that is classified as Critically Endangered or Endangered is declared to be an area of outstanding biodiversity value.**

A scientific and objective assessment has been made by experts in the field through the classification of 'endangered' or 'critically endangered'. There is no need for Ministerial referral. This is a natural and automatic 'no go' line that can be enforced.

Kind regards,

Karen Benhar

President, Friends of Berowra Valley