

Submission  
No 51

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 6 September 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

The Amendment does not go anywhere near enough to addressing the faults found in the Audit Office report and the Henry inquiry.

The impacts on Cultural Values should also be addressed with original Nationals and Peoples.

The Nature Strategy to enable Nature Positive action needs to be developed and implemented immediately to stem the loss of biodiversity and functioning ecosystems and populations.

Areas of land where development has been refused to 'avoid and minimise' impacts need to be protected by strong mechanisms to prevent future applications to develop and ongoing impacts from other sources. If it significant enough to trigger this provision, then it needs immediate protection and restorative or enhancement actions. Authorities such as Bush Fire Risk Management Committees through their Risk Plans, Local Government and other management authorities need to be made aware of and be required to note areas registered to avoid and minimise further impacts. Consideration to recording on Section 10.7 Certificates should be investigated.

Areas need to be designated as "No Go" as recommended in the Henry review.

The requirements for concurrence from the Minister responsible for the Environment needs to be expanded, strengthened and a suitable time allowed for this occur eg 30 days minimum or more if more information is requested.

Cumulative impacts need to be measured and included in offset credit calculations.

The process for exemptions for natural disaster must be transparent work both ways with logging or cleared curtailed n a catchment while recovery occurs. This will have benefits for fisheries, apiary and water quality.

A comprehensive program of MERI evaluation is needed to measure how with offsets are benefitting species at a local and regional level. This data needs to be released into the public domain. How do we now the scheme I working at all?

Species listed under the serious and irreversible impacts provisions should be exempt from the scheme ie they cannot be offset.