



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment

MD16/2876

Mr Martin Predavec
President
Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales
PO Box 20
MOSMAN NSW 2088

Dear Mr Predavec

Reforms to NSW biodiversity legislation

Thank you for your emails to the Premier, the Hon Mike Baird MP and to me about the biodiversity reforms. Please accept this as a response to all correspondence.

On 3 May 2016 the NSW Government released a draft package of land management and biodiversity conservation reforms in response to the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel's recommendations. This package includes a draft Biodiversity Conservation Bill and a draft Bill to amend the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

The new legislation will integrate and modernise our laws governing biodiversity conservation and the management of threatened species. The reforms will also introduce more equitable and effective arrangements for managing the clearing of native vegetation in rural areas.

As part of these reforms, the government has announced an unprecedented investment of \$240 million over five years in a new Private Land Conservation Program and \$70 million each following year, subject to program performance reviews, to protect and enhance biodiversity at the bioregion and state scales. In addition \$100 million over five years has already been dedicated to the Saving our Species program.

The government developed these reforms through a consultative approach with targeted stakeholders. The draft Bills were on public exhibition for eight weeks from 3 May to 28 June 2016 to allow stakeholders and the community to have their say. A large number of submissions have been received from organisations and members of the community. The government is considering this feedback.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has received and registered the submission from the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. Thank you for taking the time to make a submission and contribute to this process.

The issues raised in your submission will be carefully considered through the submissions analysis process. For transparency, all submissions will be published shortly, unless the author requests that their submission remains private.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Ms Holly Park, Acting Director, Biodiversity Policy, OEH, on 9995 6741 or at holly.park@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Speakman', written in a cursive style.

24 AUG 2016

Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment