

Mr Jason Smith
24 April 2009

The Committee Manager
Standing committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change)
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission to the Managing Climate Change Impact on Biodiversity Inquiry 2009.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have listed some of my views on the two points being investigated by the Inquiry for its notice.

Adequacy of management strategies to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

- 1) Currently existing management strategies from the state to local level are not preventing biodiversity loss. Given current management strategies are inadequate for the immediate situation how can they be adequate to address the future impacts of climate change?
- 2) A majority of native species are on the decline. One example is western Sydney. In western Sydney approximately 1200 species of plants (more than found across the entire United Kingdom) are found and of which about 60% are inadequately protected. Many species of plants in western Sydney have already become locally or entirely extinct and many more are threatened or endangered.
- 3) Current management strategies fail to acknowledge the true long term value of conservation of biodiversity at all levels. Current management strategies do not acknowledge that biodiversity is an asset that has incalculable value to present and future generations - both in the social(for example, essential in providing a high quality of life) and the scientific(for example, providing genetic information and material for potential cures to disease and for nanotechnology and other yet unknown future applications) contexts.
- 4) Management strategies should not only preserve existing biodiversity but enable diminished/threatened species and habitats to fully recover and flourish. Current management strategies do not do this. Where is an example of ONE area of natural habitat in NSW that been allowed to extend it's geographic range after being reduced by human development? The current management strategies do not encourage increasing the robustness of habitats and biodiversity within these habitat. This is a failing given the many threats our landscape now face (such as attack on vegetation by fungal disease and virus⁷ – where still no cure has been found, inundation by exotic species, more intense and regular fires, ongoing development pressures, removal of habitat corridors, habitat isolation etc etc).
- 5) Management strategies do not recognise the critical importance of wildlife and habitat corridors which are essential to maintaining biodiversity.
- 6) Management strategies do not recognise the impact of development on ecosystems and how development can cause irrevocable changes due to introduction of exotic plants, diseases etc.

7) Management strategies are not focused on, or designed to consider the “long” term (20-1000 years) timeframe. They are designed to only satisfy short term goals. This short term focus does not benefit biodiversity or provide society with a long term sustainable environment for human habitation and productivity with increasing quality of life in NSW.

Options for improving existing management strategies

- Recognise the true value of biodiversity in all management strategies.
- Recognise the long term value of biodiversity in all management strategies.
- Recognise the importance of habitat and ecosystem corridors – from a local to national geographic levels.
- Recognise the long term impacts development has on habitat and biodiversity.
- Recognise that for the long term benefit of society it is unacceptable to maintain the current attitude of allowing continuing large and wide scale development in areas that may be of value in biodiversity protection, maintenance and strengthening.

Yours Sincerely

Jason Smith