

**Submission
No 172**

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW

Name: Ms Carly Wilson

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My name is Carly Wilson, I am a conservation film maker and prior to this, managed a wildlife clinic in Canberra and later worked for many years a fauna spotter where I relocated wildlife away from sites of habitat destruction as part of construction clear and grade activities. I have had a front row spot to the implications of deforestation in Australia. I have a bachelors degree in Wildlife Science from the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington and a masters degree in Animal Studies from the University of Queensland.

I am aware that Australia has one of the world's highest rates of deforestation. I am particularly concerned in Australia about government incentives available for individuals who invest in land clearing schemes for housing developments - in particular, first home buyer grants which in NSW are only available for properties that are newly built, purchased off the plan or substantially renovated. Matching grants by developers then further incentivise habitat loss schemes.

The fact that these incentives are in place while current legislation around "Zombie DAs" means that developers can clear land using decades old environmental laws and policies (and utilising the old surveys which may or may not still be accurate) is deeply troubling.

I am also concerned about the human housing crisis and do agree that housing issues need to be addressed however I am of the strong belief that all land clearing activities must occur in line with the requirements, standards, and laws relevant at the time of clearing. This may include re-surveying and re-determining if clearing is suitable.