

**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL LAND SERVICES AMENDMENT
(CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ECOLOGICAL
COMMUNITIES) REGULATION 2019 AND LOCAL LAND
SERVICES AMENDMENT (ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES)
REGULATION 2019**

Organisation: NBN Co Limited
Date Received: 13 September 2019



nbn-Confidential: Commercial

13th of September 2019

Dear The Hon. Mick Veitch MLC,

Local Land Services Amendment (Critically Endangered Ecological Communities) Regulation 2019 and Local Land Services Amendment (Allowable Activities) Regulation 2019

nbn Co would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the recent changes to the *Local Land Services Amendment (Critically Endangered Ecological Communities) Regulation 2019* and *Local Land Services Amendment (Allowable Activities) Regulation 2019*.

As Australia's largest infrastructure program, our construction and operational activities require the ongoing maintenance of our facilities and network. A large portion of maintenance activities undertaken by nbn requires the trimming and removal of minor amounts of vegetation. This is to ensure the effective and safe operation of the network as a critical piece of national infrastructure.

nbn welcomes the inclusion of the definitions surrounding the activities which are conducted by Telecommunications networks within the *Local Land Services Amendment (Allowable Activities) Regulation 2019*. The provision of these definitions allows for a level of surety within our organisation when undertaking maintenance works in and around our network.

Whilst nbn Co has powers and immunities for the clearance of vegetation under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cwth), queries are frequently raised regarding the position of New South Wales state based legislation regarding the protection of native vegetation. The added definitions within *Local Land Services Amendment (Allowable Activities) Regulation 2019* surrounding telecommunications networks alleviates these concerns and creates parity between State and Federal legislative provisions.

The streamlining of State and Federal legislative provisions surrounding vegetation clearance should be applauded as it provides clear legislative pathways and protections for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the nbn network. Ultimately this will allow nbn Co assist in providing timely responses to network maintenance activities for NSW consumers and businesses.

Yours sincerely

Joel Ginges

State Team Lead, Land Access and Stakeholder Engagement