

**Submission  
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY OF THE NSW  
BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SCHEME**

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It's vital at this stage of planetary fragility that everything is done to increase protections for wildlife, biodiversity and natural environments. Mr Barilaro wants to review the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme to erode such protections, and prioritise short-term personal gain.

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme is supposed to 'avoid, minimise & offset' impacts to biodiversity in that order of priority, but it seems to ignore 'avoid and minimise', instead acting as the vehicle for the wholesale destruction of irreplaceable biodiversity across the state.

There can be no price put on the loss of a species, such as the beautiful and threatened Swift Parrot whose habitat is at risk from new dams and housing developments, or on an entire ecosystem, like the endangered Cumberland Plain woodland at risk from new suburbs in Western Sydney.

The Scheme must be strengthened, not weakened.