

Submission
No 23

INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY OF THE NSW BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SCHEME

Organisation: Lane Cove Council

Date Received: 27 August 2021



Lane Cove Council

48 Longueville Road, Lane Cove NSW 2066

Tel: 02 9911 3555

Fax: 02 9911 3600

The Director
Portfolio Committee Biodiversity Inquiry
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Date: 27 August 2021
CM Ref: 54756/21

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Parliamentary inquiry into the Integrity of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme

Thank you for the Invitation to make a submission into the Integrity of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. To date Lane Cove Council (Council) has not entered into a biodiversity offset agreement with planning proponents as our understanding of the offset scheme is that the calculated “banked credits” of the proposed tree removals will not be replaced back into the Local Government Area (LGA) but rather elsewhere in NSW.

Council is concerned that if the biodiversity credits are offset elsewhere in NSW there will be net loss of our trees and canopy cover. In 2020 Council had declared a climate emergency with a target to maintain a minimum 40% canopy cover in the LGA. By entering in this scheme, the LGA will indefinitely suffer a net loss of trees and canopy causing targets not to be met.

Council has reservations using the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme for these reasons and would request the director to re-evaluate the bio banking component of the scheme to prioritise banked credits to be spent in the LGA from which vegetation was removed, to immediately replenish canopy cover and habitat loss where possible.

Kind regards,

Jeff Culleton
Coordinator Bushland
Lane Cove Council