

**Submission
No 28**

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

Name: Ms Kym Kilpatrick

Date Received: 29 August 2021

I do not represent a group or vested interest. I am however a proud Australian who values deeply our unique wildlife. As a child I was taught to be kind and share, especially to those powerless and vulnerable. There is nothing more powerless and vulnerable in our world right now than our wildlife. I am concerned that the greed that drives so much of our world is destroying that which we should most value. I am concerned that biodiversity offsets are shams or 'greenwashing' that achieves very little in the way of protecting our native fauna and flora. I am concerned that the very deep pockets of industry can influence our governments to ignore the toll on our natural places.

As a volunteer fire fighter I have put my life on the line to not only protect human life but also wildlife habitat. The enormous grief for and donations to our wildlife losses in the 2019-2020 fires from my fellow Australians and others from abroad have convinced me I am not alone. It is possible that the threat of loss of habitat by stealth, driven by greed and inadequate legislation, form a much greater threat than that of any natural disasters. I hope and pray that this Committee review will achieve some protection for that which we should hold precious and dear.