

**Submission
No 31**

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

Name: Ms Cath Ireland

Date Received: 29 August 2021

I am most concerned at the Biodiversity Offsetting scheme and the whole role of the revolving fund and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. I received a written email from the BCT that pointed out NO coastal priorities are identified for purchase by the revolving fund.

The whole information provided is complex and convoluted, the exact opposite of TRANSPARENCY. It reads more like a commodity trading scheme than anything that may assist conservation of biodiversity.

In our area, at South West Rocks, a developer paid over \$700,000 for the right? to clear fell an area identified as prime koala habitat by a report funded by Macleay Landcare Network. Apparently it was not possible to find suitable offset in our area.

I sent in to the BCT information on two local properties only to be told that THERE ARE NO COASTAL PRIORITIES.

I believe that this system is fundamentally flawed and open to the worst possible corruption, as has occurred in western Sydney.

Even without corruption, this system definitly DOES NOT conserve biodiversity , especially in coastal areas, which are under the most development pressure.

There needs to be some simple , clear controls so that councils like Kempsey Council, who appear to have not interest whatsoever in keeping any wildlife corridors, or even aeshtetic screening, are made to improve the standard of biodiversity protection, especially given the large loss of wildlife in recent fires.

Please address this urgent issue: our area has lots of small developments approved years ago which will lead to clear felling of nearly all trees outside the National Park estate. The council LEP has identifeid a large area of wetalnd for MEDIUM denisty development, ignoring low land capability.

I believe the Biodiversity Offsetting scheme is fundamentally flawed and definitely assists localised extinction fo vunerable species. Locally, we have no corridors for our small koala population due to this and other poor planning policies.

Please take action before this devastating situation is repeated in many areas across the state.