

**Submission
No 63**

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

Name: Mr Martin Mansfield

Date Received: 31 August 2021

I am writing to urge the Committee to take action to ensure that the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme does not in practice lead to the loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Australia has an appalling record of species extinction and NSW has seen a completely unacceptable increase in land clearing since changes were made to land clearing legislation a couple of years ago.

It is currently too easy for land to be cleared and/or developed, resulting in the loss of habitat for wildlife and consequently reduced biodiversity, and the purchase of 'biodiversity credits' and payments into the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Scheme do not necessarily lead to the increased provision of habitat, especially in the short term or where the habitat has previously been destroyed. It is of no benefit to wildlife which has lost its habitat if trees and other vegetation are planted somewhere else or if they will not grow to a useful size and height for a long period of time.

In addition, the current arrangements for the Scheme are too susceptible to manipulation and corruption. They need to be tightened significantly to ensure its integrity.