

**Submission
No 69**

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

Name: Ms Margaret Fisher

Date Received: 2 September 2021

Dear Committee,

I apologise for the late submission but thank you for listening to my concerns.

For many years now, I have been extremely concerned with how the biodiversity offset scheme has been operating.

2 Examples come to mind, among many others.

With the Warkworth mine extension in the Hunter region, one of the areas set aside for a biodiversity offset (to be maintained in perpetuity) for the destruction in the 2003 extension, were then destroyed in the 2011 extension. The phrase in perpetuity, means nothing to this government.

The other example is the nationally significant high swamps in the Gardens of stone area. Centennial Coal was given permission to mine underneath them even though there was ample evidence from the government itself, that they would be damaged. (but the company's Eis stated there would be negligible or minimal damage)

There is no like for like offset, so the swamps were duly damaged and the company required to pay \$2million. The offset money goes into general revenue and just becomes a cost of mining (and not a very expensive one). Those swamps feed the streams and rivers, and drought proof the world heritage Blue mountains. Now lost they can never be replaced.

The offset scheme seemed designed to allow destruction of irreplaceable natural biodiverse systems, and needs a severe overhaul to work in the manner it should.

Kind regards

Margaret Fisher