



MICHAEL DALEY MP

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

24 January 2019



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the very serious changes to biodiversity protection laws introduced by the Berejiklian Government.

NSW Labor consistently opposed these changes, voting against the bills in the Parliament and taking the message out to communities around the state.

NSW Labor understands that biodiversity is in decline in NSW, with clearing of native vegetation and the associated destruction of habitat being the single biggest threat.

We know the Berejiklian Government's land clearing laws will unleash bulldozers and chainsaws on the state's trees and worsen the precarious situation for threatened native species such as our iconic koalas, as well as degrading our soil and water.

For example, satellite analysis has found that land clearing has more than tripled the rate of deforestation in parts of northern NSW, with 14 football fields of koala habitat being cleared every day since the Government's new laws began in 2017.

Labor is committed to reinstating the protections to maintain and improve biodiversity that were lost under the Liberals' and Nationals' so-called biodiversity conservation reforms.

Labor will return the biodiversity conservation laws of NSW to laws based on science, and we will support those who work every day to protect biodiversity. We will work with scientists, farmers, environmentalists, and other landholders to remake the biodiversity laws to stop deforestation.

NSW Labor is proud of its history on environmental protection. We are particularly proud of our history in implementing the Native Vegetation Act and

the Threatened Species Act, which were vital to protecting the beautiful environment and wildlife of NSW.

Under Labor's previous laws broadscale tree clearing dropped by 88%, from 80,000 to 1,000 hectares per year, and there were 53,000 fewer animal deaths each year. These laws also helped Australia meet its commitments on much-needed carbon emissions reductions.

In government, NSW Labor will ensure that our legislative and regulatory regime provides robust protections for our natural environment.

Again, thank you again for writing to me on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Daley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Daley MP
NSW Leader of the Opposition