

We acknowledge and support the reports identification of the role that regional natural resource management organisations can play as identified in Box 3.12. We support recommendation 3.1 The Australian, state and territory governments, in consultation with natural resource management organisations, should ensure that native vegetation and biodiversity conservation regulations: • are risk based (so that landholders' obligations are proportionate to the impacts of their proposed actions) • rely on assessments at the landscape scale, not just at the individual property scale • consistently consider and balance economic, social and environmental factors. We support recommendation 3.2 The Australian, state and territory governments should continue to develop market-based approaches to native vegetation and biodiversity conservation. Where the community is seeking particular environmental outcomes, governments could achieve them by buying environmental services (such as native vegetation retention and management) from existing landholders. We support recommendation 3.3 The Australian, state and territory governments should review the way they engage with landholders about environmental regulations, and make necessary changes so that landholders are supported to understand the environmental regulations that affect them, and the actions required under those regulations. This would be facilitated by: • recognising and recruiting the efforts and expertise of landholders and community-based natural resource management organisations • building the capability of, and landholders' trust in, environmental regulators. Further to these recommendations we believe that regulating farming practices for environmental outcomes should be a last resort option although we acknowledge that there is a place for regulation to ensure that at least duty of care is being met by natural resource managers.