

## **Submission- Northern Councils Environmental Zoning Review**

**Jan Olley – [jeaneteolley@gmail.com](mailto:jeaneteolley@gmail.com) 3/6/14**

As a long term resident of the Northern Rivers for nearly 60 years.

I fully support the protection of the environment, farming land and residential land through environmental zoning.

While the Review has recognised the importance of maintaining E zone 2 to protect land with high conservation values on the North Coast, however, by even considering intensive agriculture in these zones, does not afford them the highest protection.

Through our agricultural and residential activities, we have destroyed much of our native landscape and the biodiversity contained within them, in that regard the environment values are currently starting from an unbalanced position. So the greatest protection that can be provided to the high conservation lands of value such as riparian vegetation, old-growth and new forests, rainforests wetlands and mangroves should be provided.

As most of the north coast vegetation was destroyed for agricultural activities since the mid 1800's in this area it is difficult to conceive that we continue to destroy what has been left.

I am not so certain that we know everything how our environment functions and so restricting the environment to what the consultant has assessed to be "high conservation land" would seem very limiting. -

It is always disappointing that the multiple ecosystem services and benefits provided to life, human and non human by protecting the environment is not valued. If the benefits, of the inherit nature of our environment were better understood, then these benefits which span provisioning services like fresh water, nutrients and genetic resources; cultural services like spiritual and religious values, knowledge systems and education, recreation and aesthetic values; supporting services like provision of habitats, nutrient and water cycling; and regulating services like pest and disease resistance, climate regulation, pollination and water purification we would not be so quick to destroy them. The environment should be considered the bases on which we conduct our farming and building activities and not be considered secondary to them.

- Give greater protection to the environment and not less
- Consider the effects of climate change
- Provide greater protection to Koala habitat as identified in the Byron Coast Comprehensive Plan of Management.